

January 27, 1999

Angola confirms key town fallen to UNITA

LUANDA (R) — The Angolan government confirmed on Wednesday it had lost the city of Mbanza Congo, gateway to the oil town of Soyo, to UNITA rebels, but vowed to contain the rebel group's advance. "Defence Minister" General Pedro Sebastiao... confirmed in the plenary assembly [of the Angolan parliament] that in effect Mbanza Congo had been taken by UNITA," a spokesman for Sebastiao said in a statement. "Nevertheless the FAA [Angolan Armed Forces] are regrouping with more men, more sophisticated technical equipment, more arms to contain the UNITA advance," the statement said. UNITA Secretary General Paulo Lukumba Gao told Reuters in a telephone interview earlier on Wednesday that Mbanza Congo was taken late on Tuesday night after a fierce battle.

ing Indian sident show on TV

GALORE (AP) — A state-run television channel in India recently showed a photograph of a person, possibly a politician, in a military uniform, surrounded by people. The image was part of a news report.

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Thousands congratulate Prince Abdullah on designation as heir Monarch in stable condition at Mayo

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Thousands of well-wishers flocked to Raghadan Palace yesterday to congratulate HRH Prince Abdullah on his designation as Crown Prince, and several Arab leaders sent cables of support to the new heir.

Among the guests greeting the Crown Prince was his uncle, HRH Prince Hassan, whom His Majesty King Hussein had relieved from his duties as successor after 34 years as heir to the Throne on Monday.

Hours later, Prince Abdullah was sworn in as Regent, and the King was rushed back to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, suffering from recurrent fever and a low blood count.

"May you be successful, God willing," Prince Hassan said to his 36-year-old nephew, who heads the army's elite Special Forces.

The 51-year-old Prince Hassan warmly hugged Prince Abdullah, and his presence was felt because, as usual, his loud laughter echoed through the room.

Bahrain's Crown Prince Sheikh Salman Ben Hamad Ben Issa Al Khalifa also made a brief stopover in Amman on Wednesday to congratulate Prince Abdullah, who has developed strong ties with several Gulf Arab leaders during his army tenure.

He received cables of well-wishes from Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah, Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah and Crown Prince Sheikh Sa'ad Abdullah Al Sabah, Bahrain's Emir Sheikh Issa Ben Salman, Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ben Salman and Army Chief of Staff Sheikh Hamad Ben Issa, and Qatar's Crown Prince Sheikh Jassim Ben Hamad Al Thani.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat sent a cable to the new Crown Prince saying that he held him in high regard and prayed that God would protect him in serving Jordan as well as the Arab and Islamic nations in defending their historical and religious rights to their land and holy sites. Arafat praised the "distinguished" relations between Jordan and Palestine, and

praised King Hussein's stands, and "sincere and constructive efforts in supporting the Palestinian people and their legitimate struggle in order to end the Israeli occupation of our land and to reclaim the Palestinian people's rights, including their right of return and determining their own fate and establishing an independent Palestinian state on their national soil with Jerusalem as its capital."

French President Jacques Chirac also wished the Crown Prince good luck.

Top government, army, intelligence, police and civil defence officials, former prime ministers, senators, deputies, journalists, women activists and political party leaders jammed the ceremonial palace early yesterday to express allegiance to Prince Abdullah and to inquire about the King's health.

Standing before a gold-rimmed throne, the Prince, clad in a navy blue business suit, also greeted Arab and Western ambassadors accredited to Jordan.

Many officials, parliamentarians and tribal leaders embraced Prince Abdullah



HRH Crown Prince Abdullah and HRH Prince Hassan at Wednesday's ceremony in which well-wishers delivered their congratulations to Prince Abdullah (Photo by Youssef Allan)

and patted him on the shoulder in a traditional sign of support.

Witnesses said Prince Abdullah sought to reassure the well-wishers that the King was still in good condition. "He's fine, thank God," he told

them. Before the three-hour ceremony, Prince Abdullah, accompanied by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirza Kaabneh, inspected a guard of honour.

His uncle, HRH Prince Mohammad, escorted Prince Abdullah throughout the ceremony.

Officials said the heavy turnout at the palace underlined Jordanian support for King Hussein's decision.

Monarch in stable condition at Mayo

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein was reported in stable condition Wednesday evening at the Mayo Clinic, the Royal Palace and his physicians said Wednesday.

Jordan Television quoted a Jordanian embassy source in Washington as saying that after undergoing a medical check-up and receiving immediate treatment, the King was in stable condition.

The King, who returned suddenly to the U.S. on Tuesday only a week after his homecoming following six months of treatment for cancer, was described by his doctors as suffering from recurrent fevers and a low blood count before his departure.

The embassy source said Wednesday that both symptoms were under control

and that the King's doctors at the Rochester, Minnesota clinic had addressed his immediate short-term health problems.

Here in the region, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were reported to have joined ranks on Wednesday to wish King Hussein a speedy recovery.

"I hope that His Majesty will return stronger and safer so that we can coordinate together as we used to do," Arafat said in Gaza.

Netanyahu expressed his concern saying, "We're monitoring the situation of King Hussein's health. I think it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that our prayers accompany him at this moment."

Regent pledges to follow in King's footsteps

AMMAN (Petra) — In reply to His Majesty King Hussein's letter to his Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdullah, the Regent, the Prince on Wednesday reassured the King that he will follow in his footsteps to help the Jordanian people fulfil their national aspirations and pursue efforts towards strengthening national unity and achieving prosperity for all.

"I have received with great pride your message in which your Majesty passed to me your directives after you had entrusted me with the post of Crown Prince of Jordan and granted me your confidence, which is the dearest thing in my life and which I consider as one of your numerous good deeds to the Hashemite family and to the nation which you have built and for whose prosperity you have been struggling with great efforts and with great wisdom and courage," said the Crown Prince on Wednesday in his letter to King Hussein.

Referring to the King's endeavours on various fronts to ensure peace and stability, Prince Abdullah said: "You have been leading your people's march, defying all difficulties and facing challenges which have not been faced by any other leader in the region over the past decades and succeeded in achieving great national feats

that have allowed this country to enjoy the respect of the entire world by leading the Kingdom towards comprehensive development and consolidating internal stability and laying the foundations of peace in this region, whose nations have suffered dearly from wars and conflicts."

"You have opened the way for the democratic process by laying down its principles in which you believe and which embody the spirit of freedom and respect for human rights," said the Crown Prince, who was sworn in as Regent on Tuesday prior to the King's return to the U.S. for further medical attention.

Stressing that he will benefit from the King's teachings, Prince Abdullah said: "I had the honour to learn from you and to benefit from your wide expertise and leadership, and I will follow in your footsteps drawing on your great Hashemite principles, your tolerance and noble character on which we have been raised. I have learnt from you that the one great family of Jordanians of different origins constitutes our clan and they are the companions of King Hussein, and the descendants of great vanguarders, the companions of Al Hussein Ben Ali and the late King Abdullah, the founder of the Kingdom. You have been a leader, teacher, father, brother

and friend to everyone, consecrating every moment of your life to serving the Jordanian people, protecting their rights and dignity and achieving their aspirations."

Referring to the Hashemite Royal Family, the Regent said: "My lord, I am but one member of this family, and they are my family and the source of my pride. I will act in a manner that will ensure the continued principle of the spirit of affection, altruism and selflessness in this family. The great Hashemite principles will serve as the foundation on which relations between us will be based, and I will place the higher national interests above all other considerations, regarding them as the most sublime objectives."

Pledging to fulfil the King's expectations, the Regent said: "I am but one of your faithful soldiers, and as you have endowed me with your confidence I pledge to work with all my power and in line with the directives contained in your message to me to pursue the march of good deeds to serve the nation and the Jordanian people, to help them achieve their aspirations of development, progress, and a dignified and secure life, and to safeguard national unity and the domestic front."

The Regent wished the King

good health and prayed that God will bless him with His grace.

Before departing Jordan on Tuesday to return to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, King Hussein sent a letter to Crown Prince Abdullah in which he reaffirmed his confidence in him and his ability to shoulder his responsibilities with loyalty, altruism and self-denial, expressing full support for him.

In his message the King said: "I send you true Arab Hashemite greetings, love and confidence. I take pride in you as a Hashemite knight and a soldier of the nation and Crown Prince."

"I have entrusted you with the post of Crown Prince fully confident that you will shoulder the responsibility. As my son I have known you to love the homeland and to feel totally attached to it and exerting all efforts to serve it with selflessness and avoiding ostentation and pretence, acting with a strong will, seeking objectivity, and acting in line with Hashemite principles and in a manner to please God and gain the affection of people through modesty and demonstrated concern to serve them with justice and equality, placing the interests of the nation above all other considerations," the King said.

King Hussein added: "You

know that Jordan has inherited the principles of the Great Arab Revolt and its great mission, and that the Kingdom is an integral part of the Arab Nation and that the Jordanian people will continue to be at the forefront defending the nation and supporting its causes. You also realise that this great nation has over the past decades offered sacrifices in the course of defending these principles and noble values. You also realise that the people of Jordan, of various roots and origins, have never shirked their duty and never disappointed their leadership and their nation as they have always been loyal to their nation and capable and ready to confront difficulties and challenges. The Jordanian people have the right to expect from their leadership to work for their present and future and to achieve for them a dignified life and the protection of their rights as provided for in the Constitution."

"I am confident that you will continue to act as one of the Hashemite family, respecting them and loving each member, seeking with all your power to unite them and spread affection among them and to consult with them and ensure that everyone's rights are safeguarded," the King added.

"We are going after parts of the [Iraqi air defence] system that we think we can successfully attack and degrade," Bacon said. "We are attacking the system quite broadly."

An Iraqi information ministry spokesman reacted by saying Iraq was "exercising its legitimate right to self-defence" and would continue to challenge U.S. and British overflights.

"Sandy Berger and his President Clinton want to ignore the fact that there is no law or international resolution to justify the exclusion zones," the spokesman said.

Before Desert Fox, U.S. fighters mostly retaliated in a bit-for-bit fashion and only when directly illuminated by radar from Iraqi surface-to-air missile batteries or aircraft.

U.S. National Security Adviser Samuel Berger disclosed that

Arab, foreign officials show support for new heir

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — A tide of comments from leading international figures Wednesday showed support for His Majesty King Hussein's decision to designate his eldest son HRH Prince Abdullah as Crown Prince.

But the sudden departure of the King early Tuesday to the U.S. for additional medical attention, exactly one week after his homecoming, raised concerns from Israeli officials and experts on Wednesday.

King Hussein, whose doctors said he was suffering from recurrent fevers and a low blood count, was reported to be in stable condition at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where he recently underwent six months of chemotherapy and a stem-cell transplant for non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, in Cairo for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, on Wednesday promised support for Jordan, praising the "magnificent job" done by King Hussein.

"Obviously what is going on in Jordan is an internal affair," Albright, who will be visiting today to offer congratulations to the Crown Prince, said at a news conference.

"Jordan is a very important country to us," she said, describing the King as a very

important regional leader. "We will stand by Jordan and hope that this transition is one that does not create problems."

King Hussein replaced his younger brother HRH Prince Hassan as Crown Prince on Monday, Prince Hassan had been heir to the Throne for 34 years, during which he worked on establishing many of the Kingdom's economic, scientific institutes and think tanks.

"King Hussein has done a magnificent job and is now arranging for a succession," Albright said.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa added: "We wish them well — the King and the Crown Prince and Jordan. Jordan is a sister country and an important country in the equation of peace in the Middle East," Musa said.

In Baghdad, the Iraqi daily Babel Wednesday said King Hussein was prudent in appointing his eldest son as his successor, saying the move "is considered one of the most intelligent political decisions which King Hussein has taken, particularly in the 1990s."

Babel, owned by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, said of the new heir, "Prince Abdullah possesses a brave character and is accepted by the military and has good relations with them."

Last month, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz accused Prince Hassan of meddling in Iraq's internal affairs and criticised him for

not condemning U.S.-led air strikes against Iraq in December.

In an interview on Jan. 20 with CNN, the day after his homecoming following his cancer treatment in the U.S., the King indicated he was satisfied with the way the Crown Prince handled the Iraqi situation, saying perhaps he would have handled it differently.

News of King Hussein's abrupt return to the U.S. had Israeli officials and experts worried. However, the Israeli government was careful to downplay any likelihood of an erosion of ties with Jordan.

"What worries us the most is that any change in leadership in Jordan involves uncertainties and we must follow developments with the utmost attention," a senior official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

"We are convinced, however, that our peaceful relations with Jordan will continue because this is in the strategic interest of both nations," he said.

The official and other Israeli experts described Prince Abdullah, who turned 37 on Saturday, as a respected military officer with demonstrated abilities as a commander. The Crown Prince holds the rank of major general in the Armed Forces and is commander of the Special Forces Command.

(Continued on page 2)

Four Palestinians shot by Israeli army

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded four Palestinians during clashes on Wednesday near a refugee camp in the West Bank, a Palestinian hospital official said.

"Four Palestinians have been admitted to hospital after being shot in the legs with live bullets by Israeli soldiers during clashes in a refugee camp," said the official at Ramallah hospital.

He said none of the four was in serious condition. The Israeli army said it was checking the information. Witnesses said Palestinians at the camp threw rocks at Israeli army jeeps near the refugee camp and soldiers responded with gunfire.

Iraq vows to down U.S. war planes, urges uprisings in S. Arabia, Kuwait

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq vowed on Wednesday to use "all means" to combat an escalation in the U.S. air campaign as MPs called for uprisings in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The 250 MPs meeting in special session voted by a show of hands on a resolution calling on the Arab masses who protested against the U.S. and British strikes last month "to overthrow these regimes" in Kuwait and Riyadh.

"Hired regimes who have directly or indirectly assisted in the aggression should be considered part of an imperialist plot against the Arab Nation," President Saddam Hussein called on Jan. 5 for Arabs to overthrow their leaders, particularly in Saudi Arabia, which like Kuwait allows U.S. and British forces to use their air bases.

The parliament also called for Arab countries to lift the international embargo on Iraq, "unilaterally and immediately," and to condemn the U.S. and British attacks and the "no-fly"

zones they enforce.

Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan thundered defiance. "Iraq will use all means and all its capacities to face up to the U.S. and British planes which are violating its airspace and sovereignty," he said on Iraqi television.

Referring to U.S. air forces based in Saudi Arabia, he said Baghdad held the U.N. Security Council and pro-U.S. Arab leaders to blame for "damages inflicted by these aggressive actions."

U.S. fighter jets struck Iraqi positions for a fourth consecutive day on Tuesday as U.S. and British planes patrolled "no-fly" zones. But there was no report of incidents on Wednesday.

Flying from bases in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Turkey and from a U.S. carrier in Gulf waters, the planes patrol the northern and southern zones.

Iraq said 11 civilians were killed on Monday as a U.S. missile crashed into a densely populated area near the southern city of Basra, reducing several homes to rubble.

"We regret the stray missile on Basra that killed several civilians," U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said in Cairo after meeting President Hosni Mubarak.

"The use of force is not our preferred mechanism," she said, adding that the United States would continue to seek Saddam's compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions. She later flew to Riyadh.

The Pentagon admitted that a stray U.S. missile with a 2,000 pound warhead exploded in a residential area on Monday.

Iraq's Foreign Minister Kamal Khazri, meanwhile, called on the United States to apologise over the landing of an Iraq-bound missile in an Iranian border town.

"The United States should present its apologies and repair the damage incurred," Khazri said.

U.S. pilots patrolling the exclusion zones have been operating under expanded rules of engagement since the four-day U.S.-British air campaign in December.

"We are going after parts of the [Iraqi air defence] system that we think we can successfully attack and degrade," Bacon said. "We are attacking the system quite broadly."

An Iraqi information ministry spokesman reacted by saying Iraq was "exercising its legitimate right to self-defence" and would continue to challenge U.S. and British overflights.

"Sandy Berger and his President Clinton want to ignore the fact that there is no law or international resolution to justify the exclusion zones," the spokesman said.

Before Desert Fox, U.S. fighters mostly retaliated in a bit-for-bit fashion and only when directly illuminated by radar from Iraqi surface-to-air missile batteries or aircraft.

Palestinians say new Israeli law violates peace principles

RAMALLAH (AP) — A top Palestinian official said Wednesday that a new Israeli law restricting withdrawals from illegally annexed land violates the spirit of peace agreements.

Syria has also accused Israel of promoting tensions with the law, which applies to the Golan Heights and Arab east Jerusalem.

The bill, stipulating a national referendum and an absolute majority vote in parliament, passed its final reading with a vote of 53-30 in the Knesset on Tuesday.

It received support from government and opposition legislators.

Lead Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said the law was an effort to restrict future negotiations on the principle of land-for-peace, set down in the 1991 Madrid peace conference between Israel and the Arabs.

"This is a cardinal violation of the principle that we went to Madrid on... calling for the return of all occupied land," Erekat told the Associated Press.

The Palestinians want east Jerusalem as the capital of a future state. Jerusalem is on the agenda for final status negotiations slated for later this year.

Israel has insisted that Arab

east Jerusalem will remain the country's indivisible "eternal capital."

In Damascus, the government-run newspaper Tishreen said in an editorial that the decision means "there would be no peace in this region and that the only choices are war or tension." Israeli-Syrian peace talks, which have not taken place since early 1996, have often foundered on the Golan issue. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu believes the strategic plateau is essential to national security. Syria sees their unconditional return as a prerequisite for peace.

(Continued on page 2)

UJ to offer new faculty: Rehabilitation sciences on offer next semester

By Susan Resheq

AMMAN — The state-run University of Jordan said it has an initial plan to offer bachelors degrees in a new College of Rehabilitation Sciences at the university and to offer three postgraduate degrees in women's studies, social work and pasture management next semester — the first offering of such specialisations in the country.

President of University of Jordan Walid Ma'ani said, "the idea behind this faculty of rehabilitation sciences came from Jordan's need for well-qualified people in rehabilitation sciences."

Ma'ani said the faculty will also provide out-patient care to patients requiring some sort of rehabilitation or physiotherapy.

Ma'ani said the opening of the college has four objectives: to provide qualified, well-trained staff and therapists with view to meeting the needs of Jordan and the region in the rehabilitation sciences; to teach the academic aspects of rehabilitation and carry out research in public sector medical clinics; to provide specialised and effective services to the handicapped and centres for the disabled; and to develop working relationships between national, regional and international organisations dealing with the same

activities.

The new field of study will include four main scientific branches: physiotherapy, occupational therapy, prosthetics manufacturing and respiratory therapy.

Occupational therapy courses teach people new job skills in cases where disease renders them unable to participate in their previous employment.

Prosthetics devices will be given to patients "who have a limp or may have had hands amputated," Ma'ani said. "Respiratory therapists will help patients after medical operations, so that the risk of infections will be reduced," he added.

According to Ma'ani, the rehabilitation services will help alleviate the suffering of certain patients and aid them in remaining productive, independent members of society.

Ma'ani said students who want to study in this college must pass the tajwili scientific stream with marks not less than eighty per cent.

The college could seat between 60 and 120 students in the four branches," Ma'ani told the Jordan Times.

During the four-year course, they will study a general core curriculum relevant to the four branches for two years. During the third and the fourth years students will

choose their specialisation within the faculty.

Ma'ani said the study in the new college will operate in coordination with students in the scientific stream at the University of Jordan and the University Hospital, which will offer students practical work experience during their first two years.

The establishment of the college will cost JD4 million, a cost that will be shared by the University of Jordan, the Ministry of Planning, and the aid of donor countries. Ma'ani is preparing to solicit various embassies in Amman to seek funding.

"To meet the needs of our society, the university will also offer new masters degrees next semester," Ma'ani added.

Louis Mqatash, dean of postgraduate studies at the university, said the aim behind launching the new masters degrees is to meet Jordan's socio-economic development needs, which requires well-qualified individuals who approach issues with scientific knowledge and research.

Mqatash said graduates with masters degrees in women's studies would be able to tackle female issues in a realistic and scientific way and help the development of programmes to improve the lot of women. It will also foster the interaction between women and society.

The social work programme aims to prepare students for social occupations in the social care field, and to expand social services to people in general.

It would help students diversify creative abilities in analysing and putting emphasis on needed social policies, develop critical thinking and develop new social theories.

"The social changes in our society have affected people's lives. Eventually, there must be specialists in fields related to social matters," Mqatash said.

The dean indicated that students wishing to pursue higher studies in women studies and social work must have achieved bachelors degrees in related fields, with marks not less than 'good'.

Mqatash indicated that the motive of launching master degrees in pasture management is the existence of the large pastures which forms 90 per cent of Jordan, Middle East and North Africa. Specialists in pasture management with high scientific and technical qualifications could help to properly invest in and exploit these pastures, and help solve Jordan agricultural problems.

Admission to the pasture management programme requires a bachelor's degree in agriculture, biology or ecology.



AT ATTENTION: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein inspects the Guard of Honour before a congratulatory ceremony at Raghadan Palace yesterday. Behind him is Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mira'i Kaabneh (Petra photo)



THE RECEIVING LINE: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdullah receives well-wishers Wednesday at Raghadan Palace. Left is Prince Abdullah greeting former Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, and right, Prince Abdullah shakes the hand of former Information Minister Mahmoud Sharif (photos by Petra)

Officials offer congratulations to King Hussein on appointment of Crown Prince Abdullah

AMMAN (Petra) — Senior Jordanian officials Monday sent congratulatory cables to His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdullah, the Regent, on the occasion of his appointment as heir to the Hashemite Throne.

Messages were received from Senate President Zaid Rifai, President of the Judicial Council Taher Hikmat, Director of the General Intelligence Department Major General Samih Battikhi, Chief Islamic Justice and the King's advisor for Islamic

Affairs Izzeddin Khatib Tamimi, Director of the Royal Medical Services Lt. General Yousef Qusous.

In his message to King Hussein, Rifai congratulated the King on behalf of the 40-member senate and renewed the Upper House of Parliament's allegiance to the Hashemite leadership. He wished the King good health and long life. He congratulated Prince Abdullah in a message and wished him success and good luck.

Hikmat, in his cable to the King, said he and the judicial authority support

King Hussein's choices and that they greet the recent decision with all due respect and appreciation. He congratulated the Regent, and said he is confident Prince Abdullah will continue the King's approach in order to protect the judicial system and ensure its independence.

In his message to King Hussein, Battikhi said that, on behalf of himself and the General Intelligence Department, it was his honour to express sincere loyalty to King Hussein and renew his allegiance.

Qusous, congratulated the Regent in a message, and said the Royal Medical Services will continue in their efforts to serve the Kingdom.

West Bank hometown takes pride in Princess Rania

TULKAREM (AFP) — "Books, Stationery, Sports Goods, Games and Gifts" reads the sign above Khaled Yassin's bookshop near the governor's office in the West Bank market town of Tulkarem.

It is an unlikely setting as the workplace for the uncle of a future queen.

Yassin, the bookshop's owner, is the paternal uncle of Her Royal Highness Princess Rania, the wife of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdullah, the Regent.

Before she was married, the likely future queen of Jordan was called Rania Yassin and the Yassins are a Tulkarem family.

"She was just a normal little girl when she came here. She played basketball or chess with my children. But we didn't know she was going to be a princess then," Yassin told AFP on Tuesday. "We're very proud of her and pleased that one day she will be queen of Jordan," the 67-year-old former

teacher

said as he tried to cope with a rush of school-children crowding his shop after the Eid Al Fitr holidays.

The Yassins are well-known in Tulkarem. As part of the larger Al Seif clan, the family has a long history of opposing invaders and one of its sons, Abdul Rahman Haj Mohammad Yassin, led the Palestinian uprising against the British mandate in the Tulkarem area in 1936.

Like many Palestinians, Princess Rania's father and Khaled's brother, Faisal Yassin, left the West Bank to seek his fortune in



Kuwait, where Princess Rania was born.

She was educated in Kuwait and at the American University in Cairo.

When the Palestinians were expelled from Kuwait after the

Gulf War, her family left and went to Jordan.

"There are only four or five men from the family left in the town," said a cousin of Princess Rania's father, Ghazi Shafiq Yassin, 63, who works in the engineering department of Tulkarem municipality.

"But the people of Tulkarem and her family are very proud of Rania. We applaud her good fortune and for bringing together families, Arabs and Muslims together," he said.

Princess Rania's aunt Fadwa Yassin also glowed with pride.

"She is very intelligent, from the beginning, she was distinguished," she said during an interview with the Jerusalem Post. "As far as I am concerned, she could be queen of the world, not just Jordan."

Jordanian analysts believe that Princess Rania could be a major asset in Crown Prince Abdullah's relations with Jordanians of Palestinian origin, the Post said.

When Prince Abdullah ascends the Throne, his wife would not be the first queen of Palestinian origin. Alia Toukan, the third wife of King Hussein, traced her roots to a family from Nabulus. She died in a helicopter crash while returning to Amman on February 9, 1977, from a trip to southern Jordan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tarawneh inspects trade ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh Wednesday inspected the Ministry of Trade and Industry and discussed the Kingdom's general economic situation with Minister Mohammad Saleh Hourani. During the meeting, Hourani briefed Tarawneh on Jordan's economic and supply situation and the ministry's efforts to serve several economic sectors, especially facilitating investment regulations, supporting exports, monitoring markets and providing basic materials. Hourani explained the development of the country's trade relations, and stressed the importance of continually strengthening these ties. Tarawneh stressed the importance of improving investment, facilitating regulations and solving investors' problems. He also emphasised the importance of encouraging the private sector to target Arab markets in boosting exports. At the end of the meeting, also attended by Ministry Secretary General Mohammad Halaiqa, the premier expressed satisfaction with the ministry's efforts and achievements.

Libyan interior minister arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Libyan Interior Minister Mohammad Zoui arrived in Amman Wednesday to participate in the 16th Meeting of the Arab Interior Ministers' Council, which will be held Friday at Al Hussein Youth City. The meeting will discuss Arab countries' cooperation and coordination in security, combating terrorism and narcotics trafficking. Interior Minister Nayef Qadi, Interior Ministry Secretary General Hashim Sabbagh, Council Secretary General Ahmad Salem, Amman Governor Tala'at Nawayseh and other Jordanian and Libyan officials received Zoui at the airport.

Jordan attends Egyptian book fair

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in Egypt's 31st International Book Exhibition, which started on Tuesday and will last until the 11th of February. The Kingdom is participating with 500 items of several local publishers. Around 78 countries and 3,470 publishers are taking part in the display, which was opened by President Hosni Mubarak. Three million books from around the world will be on display.

Jordan receives U.S. military aid

AMMAN (Petra) — As part of the U.S. military aid to Jordan, the Kingdom today receives military equipment worth \$25 million. The equipment, which is aimed to enhance Jordan's defence capacity, will be delivered at a special ceremony held in Aqaba. The equipment includes modern anti-tankers weapons, infrared equipment, ammunition, telecommunication equipment and spare parts.

Municipality celebrates Arbor Day

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman Municipality in conjunction with the Haya Cultural Centre and the National Action Committee for Childhood today celebrates Arbor Day as part of a national environmental campaign. Around 20,000 trees will be planted in 508 dunums in Wadi Qattar, eastern Amman, in an effort to limit desertification, soil depletion and erosion, increase vegetation, establish environment-friendly parks, exploit agricultural land, create an ecological balance through planting trees, preserve underground water. Children have been invited to participate in the activities in order to deepen concepts of team work, promote public awareness and to encourage them to preserve their environment.

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — Share prices slipped further at the stock market on Wednesday as Jordanians awaited news on the health of His Majesty King Hussein, who was rushed back to a U.S. hospital on Tuesday suffering from recurrent fever and low blood count.

However, several bankers said they did not witness any unusual demand on the U.S. dollar similar to the panic buying they witnessed in July when King Hussein was first admitted to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, for chemotherapy treatment. Officials said that Jordanians transferred over \$400 million abroad in July, although over \$100 million have returned since then.

The AFM daily bulletin showed that turnover amounted to JD2.8 million compared to JD5.1 million on Tuesday while the 60-share index dropped to 175.54 points, or 2.27 per cent.

Amer Mouasher, a broker at the stock market, said many firms recorded a "limit down" — an instance in which a share price drops by five per cent maximum of the total price, the maximum drop allowed — in their prices during the last day

of trading on the financial market.

Mouasher pointed that major blue-chip stocks recorded a price decrease, notably the Arab and Housing bank, Jordan Phosphate Mining Company, the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) and companies in the pharmaceutical sector.

"People felt comfortable when the King returned home," the broker told the Jordan Times, "but the sudden trip for treatment on Tuesday took us by surprise and caused a decline in share prices."

"Those who bought shares on Tuesday decided to sell to avoid remarkable losses if prices drop further on the stock market," Mouasher said.

Out of the 62 firms that changed hands on the floor, shares of 52 companies recorded a decrease in their prices, three registered an increase and seven firms witnessed no change.

Almost half of the turnover was recorded by JCFC following a block transfer order on the floor. The Arab Bank followed, registering only JD383,580.

"Investors are watching the scene now and waiting for news about the King's health, which will

influence activities on the stock market," said Naim Nageeb, another broker.

"Instability and tension dominate the AFM, and only good news about His Majesty's health will bring things back to order," the broker added.

Dollar prices slightly increased, with the American green back jumping to 71.3 compared to 71.1 in the previous days.

A monetary official, who requested anonymity, described the situation as normal and ruled out the possibility that the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) would take any precautionary measures.

"Things are stable and we are not worried. The CBJ's foreign reserves are in good form and we

do not intend to resort to any precautionary measures because we do not need them," the official told the Jordan Times.

Chairman of Money Exchangers Association Mute'i Kabariti said that a slight increase in demand was recorded on Tuesday, but that the increase was not worrisome.

Director General of the Housing Bank, Abdul Qadir Dweik said only \$500,000 was purchased yesterday "which is less than the ordinary days."

"CBJ foreign reserves are okay, and the Jordanian currency has not changed. Things remain in a positive position," the banker said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

• "The Godfather" (pt.1) at Books@Cafe, Jabal Amman, on Saturday Jan. 30 at 8:30 p.m. (Tel. 4650458).

EXHIBITIONS

• "The Warm Winter" — works by several artists at Orfali Art Gallery, Um Uthaina (Tel. 5526932), until Feb. 1.

• The Tenth Anniversary Exhibition of Contemporary Arab Artists at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh (Tel. 4643251/2), until Jan. 28.

Myanmar dismisses Suu Kyi deportation rumours

YANGON (R) — Myanmar's military government Sunday dismissed rumours that it might deport opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, saying they represented attempts by her party to create news headlines.

A Myanmar government statement said Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) should join the ruling military and other countries in finding ways of riding out the Asian economic crisis, rather than trying to seek publicity.

"We hope the NLD will contribute in a positive and meaningful way to achieve a better, fuller life... and take a more responsible, constructive cooperation rather than resorting to whimsical and symbolic gestures designed merely to attract attention and create seasonal sensational headlines," it said.

A NLD statement obtained by Reuters Friday quoted Suu Kyi as saying that she had no intention of

leaving Myanmar amid rumours in Yangon that she might be expelled from the country and the NLD dissolved after New Year.

The Nobel peace laureate said the government would have problems finding a country to accept her as she held only Myanmar's citizenship.

Myanmar's official media have in recent months questioned whether Suu Kyi is still entitled to Myanmar nationality, on the grounds that she had married a British man, academic Michael Aris.

Semi-government organisations have in the past two months organised anti-NLD rallies in which they called for Suu Kyi's deportation and dissolution of her party. State-owned media have also made similar demands since mid-September when the NLD launched its Committee Representing People's Parliament (CRPP).

The government statement Sunday said it was not an appropriate time for Suu

Kyi and the NLD to engage in sensational politics while most Asian countries still struggle to recover from the economic turmoil.

"The Government of Myanmar is working hard to develop Myanmar and guide it through the current regional economic crisis. Much work remains ahead of us. The regional economic crisis is not improving and this is no time for playing politics," it said.

The NLD statement quoted Suu Kyi as saying this week that the ruling government, called the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), would probably need to bribe a foreign totalitarian state with Myanmar's commodities in order to induce it to accept her.

"The only way for the ruling government to deport me is to make a give-and-take with a totalitarian state, by giving them a certain number of tonnes of rice or so... they don't have a rocket to send me to the moon either," she said.

U.S. lawmaker says Washington downplaying China threat in South China Sea

MANILA (AFP) — A senior U.S. congressman who has inspected a disputed chain of islands in the South China Sea has accused Washington of playing down China's aggression in the area, documents obtained Sunday said.

In his report to the chairman of the U.S. House Internal Relations Committee, Dana Rorabacher said the Chinese navy has been engaged in a "de facto encirclement of Spratly islands" by constructing military posts such as those discovered in a Philippine-claimed reef in November.

This "aggression" by the Chinese government "threatens trade and military sea-lanes vital to the United States and our allies," the U.S. legislator said.

"For two years, the State Department and the

Pentagon have pursued an 'ostrich policy' of burying their heads in the sand downplaying these dangerous developments," Rorabacher said in his report, a copy of which was obtained by reporters here.

Rorabacher had promised the Philippine government support in its dispute with China over the islands after he was flown over the area by Philippine officials two weeks ago.

He also accused China of "bullying" the Philippines by expanding military-type structures on Mischief Reef and stationing three naval vessels in the area.

The reef is part of the Spratly chain of islands that straddle vital shipping lanes in the South China Sea and are believed to lie atop vast oil and mineral deposits.

The islands are claimed in whole or part by China,

the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam and Taiwan.

The U.S. government had "steadfastly opposed our fact-finding efforts for fear of upsetting the Communist Chinese," Rorabacher alleged.

He also warned of "greater conflicts" should Washington continue with its silence about the alleged "Chinese military build-up in the Spratlys."

A diplomatic row erupted between Manila and Beijing after the discovery of the expanded structures in November, which the Chinese government maintained were only fishing shelters.

President Joseph Estrada and his Chinese counterpart Jiang Zemin later agreed to resolve the dispute through peaceful means and for both governments to jointly use the structures pending a resolution of the sovereignty issue.



A young man clammers on a fallen tree in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, after high winds on Boxing Day caused structural damage, particularly in the north of the country. A man was killed, two were missing and 80,000 people were left without electricity after the heavy storms lashed Britain and Ireland, police said (AFP photo)

One dead, 2 missing as storms lash Britain, Ireland

LONDON (AFP) — A man was killed, two were missing and 80,000 people were left without electricity after storms lashed Britain and Ireland Saturday, police said.

A 23-year-old man died when a tree fell on his car in the Connemara region of western Ireland. His girlfriend who was also in the car escaped unhurt.

In Britain, where winds reached 160 kilometres per hour, a 28-year-old man was carried away by a 10 metre wave as he was about to swim in the sea at Brighton.

Rescuers spotted him in the waves but the rough

seas prevented any efforts to save him, a police spokesman said.

Searches resumed Sunday after being called off Saturday night.

The man's partner and their son, who were also on the beach, managed to return to land and were treated in hospital.

The bad weather also caused the cancellation of ferry services between Britain and Ireland.

In the southwestern English county of Devon a 44-year-old man was missing after falling into a river. Helicopter searches were continuing for the man.

The Environment Agency issued 50 flood warnings in that region after torrential rain fell throughout Saturday.

A 4,300-tonne Portuguese ship was towed to safety near the Isle of Wight in southern England, after the ship was washed towards rocks.

In Northern Ireland, a number of people needed treatment for minor injuries after the wind tore the roof off an apartment block.

The winds were expected to die down Sunday, but heavy rain is expected which forecasters said could worsen flooding.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pope shares holiday wishes with pilgrims at Castel Gandolfo

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (AP) — Holding up well despite a demanding holiday schedule, a smiling Pope John Paul II lingered on the balcony of his vacation retreat Sunday to listen to the Christmas hymns and greetings of pilgrims gathered below. "Long live the Pope," one man chanted in the courtyard of his palace at Castel Gandolfo — a wish picked up and applauded by others in the crowd. John Paul, 78, delivered his weekly Sunday address from the balcony, cloaked in a red cape against the chill. Earlier in the month, a flu and fever had forced him to cancel some events. His voice stayed strong Sunday throughout what was only the latest in days of long public appearances, including a midnight Mass Christmas Eve that had kept him up until the early hours of the morning. Saturday, he came to his vacation retreat outside Rome for a few days of rest. Urging Catholics Sunday to think of both their families and the homeless throughout the remainder of the holidays, he became animated only after he finished his scripted remarks — when the faithful burst into applause. He smiled, leaned forward and nodded, staying outside for a few minutes while the crowd of Catholics from around the world clapped, cheered and sang. Wishing them a good rest of the holiday, and a happy last Sunday of the year, he finally disappeared back inside.

Russia puts newest nuclear missile generation online

MOSCOW (AP) — The military put 10 new Topol-M nuclear missiles on full combat readiness Sunday, the first time the missile has been deployed. The missile was developed to sustain Russia as a global nuclear power. The single-warhead Topol-M's were commissioned in the Saratov region, about 700 kilometres southeast of Moscow, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported. The deployment was a major step for Russia's cash-strapped military. The government doesn't have enough money to maintain all its armed forces, and decided to concentrate defence spending on developing the Topol-M. "This is a very important event, because even in the difficult financial conditions of 1998 we have managed to find funds for financing this top priority area," said Defence Minister Igor Sergeev, according to ITAR-TASS. The intercontinental Topol-M will be the new heart of Russia's missile forces. Forty are expected to be built by the end of 2000, taking the place of heavier, multiple-warhead missiles. The Topol-M is a lightweight, rugged missile designed to be fired from a vehicle. Its mobility increases its safety from preemptive enemy first strikes, unlike silo-based warheads.

1 killed, 2 injured in building collapse

PISA, Italy (AFP) — A 76-year-old woman was fatally injured and two people were hurt when a three-storey block of flats partly collapsed overnight at Pontedera, near Pisa, in northwest Italy, police said Sunday. A whole wing of the building caved in, probably because of a gas explosion, they said. Rescuers pulled the woman out alive, but she died in hospital. Two young people were slightly hurt. No other residents of the block of six flats were injured. Less than two weeks earlier, on Dec. 16, 27 people were killed when a residential block collapsed in Rome.

Weather could help bamboo raft reach Darwin

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Favourable weather could help a 16-metre bamboo raft — retracing what organisers say was man's first ocean voyage 100,000 years ago — reach Darwin in northern Australia by Dec. 31. The raft, Nale Tasih, is the project of Australian maritime historian Bob Hobman, who is reenacting the arrival of the ancestors of Australian aborigines from Kupang on the Indonesian island of Timor. Early Sunday, the Nale Tasih was 160 nautical miles from its destination after setting out on Dec. 17, and crossing into Australian waters on Dec. 26. Hobman said forecasts of freshening winds linked to a strengthening monsoonal trough across northern Australia could push the raft to the mainland by Thursday. On board with Hobman is a crew of four, including Melbourne-based scientist Robert Bednarik, Australian documentary film maker Peter Rogers, and two Indonesian crew members. Food supplies are being supplemented by fresh fish speared by the Indonesian sailors. Hobman said the raft's first attempt to cross the Timor Sea earlier this year was thwarted by the El Niño phenomenon which held back the annual monsoons in the region.

Paris' Arc de Triomphe shut down by strike

PARIS (R) — The Arc de Triomphe, one of Paris' most popular tourist attractions, was off-limits to visitors Sunday as the monument's employees went on strike over staffing levels and pay. Built on the orders of the Emperor Napoleon between 1806 and 1835 to honour the French army, the arc draws about a million visitors a year and offers a panoramic view of the French capital. The employees, who walked out Saturday afternoon, have demanded negotiations with the culture ministry before they will consider returning to work. They complain they must work too much overtime and are demanding bonuses and the hiring of additional staff. A ministry spokesman said talks were expected to begin Monday between the arc's approximately 50 employees and the Caisse Nationale des Monuments Historiques, the state agency that manages France's historic monuments. The last two months have been particularly tough on Paris tourists, who have been barred for a few days at a time from the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre, Orsay and Grand Palais art museums due to wildcat strikes.

Two Peruvian cholera victims hospitalised in Chile

ARICA, Chile (AFP) — Two Peruvian cholera victims were hospitalised in the Chilean port city of Arica, local health authorities said Saturday. They were the first known cases of cholera in Chile in the last four years. The patients are merchants who make frequent trips between their country and Arica, a city bordering on Peru and 1,650 kilometres north of Santiago. They were hospitalised Thursday. Doctors said their lives were not in danger. Cholera is an acute bacterial infection involving the small intestine. It is marked by diarrhoea and vomiting. The region's health service ordered stricter inspection of water discharges and the local water supply to detect the presence of cholera organisms. The health service also urged people to thoroughly cook seafood, and vegetables that grow close to the ground. Chile controlled an outbreak of the disease between 1991 and 1994, when the disease spread from neighbouring Peru and affected about 150 persons, three of whom died.

Police investigating suicides after poison ordered on Internet

TOKYO (AP) — A man who reportedly ran a "suicide clinic" on the Internet is suspected of providing cyanide to seven customers, including at least one woman who killed herself with the poison, police said Sunday.

The man reportedly called himself "Dr. Kiriko" — a Japanese comic book character who practices euthanasia — and killed himself earlier this month. A second of his customers also killed herself, but with sleeping pills.

A police spokesman in Tokyo who gave only his surname, Fujii, said Sunday that the seven people who ordered cyanide transferred money to the bank account of the man.

His body was discovered at his home in the city of Sapporo on Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido on Dec. 15.

Quoting unidentified police sources, Kyodo News agency said he was a 27-year-old pharmacist with a history of mental illness. Media reports said he commit-

ted suicide.

The cyanide suicides are the latest in a year of bizarre poisoning cases that have troubled Japan, which once prided itself on relative freedom from indiscriminate crime.

"At the close of a dark year yet another poisoning incident symbolic of it has occurred," lamented the Yomiuri newspaper, Japan's largest, in a Sunday editorial.

Fujii said police are investigating the suicides of two of "Dr. Kiriko's" customers, a 21-year-old Tokyo woman who died from an apparent overdose of sleeping pills and another person who died after taking cyanide.

The Asahi newspaper reported the woman who used cyanide was a 24-year-old Tokyo resident and committed suicide on Dec. 15.

Yomiuri reported Sunday that another Tokyo woman has confessed to acting as an intermediary between the suicide victim and the cyanide provider. Fujii said three others

who made cash transfers have been confirmed alive, while two remain unaccounted for. Media reports, however, said four have been confirmed alive.

Kyodo reported that the man's Internet site was called "Dr. Kiriko's consultation room," featured information on suicide by poisoning and offered advice via e-mail for those who wanted to kill themselves.

The suicides were the latest in a string of poison deaths this year in Japan.

In July, four people died and 63 became ill after eating curry rice laced with arsenic at a summer festival in southwestern Japan. A former insurance saleswoman was arrested earlier this month on murder and attempted murder charges in those deaths.

The poisoning set off a spate of copycat crimes with drinks at stores and in vending machines, including a man who died after drinking a can of tainted tea.

Fighting in Angola blocks searches for crashed U.N. plane

LUANDA (AFP) — Battles between Angolan government troops and UNITA rebels hampered a search for the wreckage of a U.N. plane which crashed in the centre of the war-torn African country, U.N. sources said Sunday.

The U.N. Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) said the Hercules C-130 plane was carrying 10 passengers and four crew when it went down east of Vila Nova, 45 kilometres from Huambo.

Huambo, capital of the east-central province of the same name, is one of several areas where rebels of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) are fighting government troops.

A MONUA statement said the plane burst into flames and crashed at about midday (1100 GMT) after taking off from Huambo for the northeastern city of Saurimo, without giving details of those who were aboard.

The United Nations has appealed to the government and UNITA for help in access to the

crash site and for assistance in rescuing any survivors, but it was not known whether they included U.N. observers who have been trying to implement peace protocols signed in Lusaka in 1994.

MONUA officials were not available for comment early Sunday.

Angola plunged back into serious conflict this year, as hardliners in UNITA loyal to the movement's veteran leader Jonas Savimbi have refused to disarm and demobilise in line with the Lusaka protocols and President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has decided to crush the armed guerrillas by force.

In the past month, heavy fighting causing hundreds of casualties has broken out in the chief town of Bie province east of Huambo, Kuito. Kuito was already devastated in ferocious battles that broke out anew after UNITA lost general elections to Dos Santos's People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) late in 1992. Sunday, an independent

Roman Catholic radio station, Ecclesia, said that some 200 people had been killed since UNITA forces began an offensive on Kuito on Dec. 9, adding that 463 people needed hospital treatment after heavy bombardments which ended Saturday night.

Thirty-five people died Friday in Kuito, one family losing eight members in the shelling, and 63 people were wounded.

The Angolan army struck back against the rebels Saturday, forcing UNITA artillery units to withdraw from the hills around Kuito, Ecclesia reported.

The residents of the ruined town left shelters Sunday where they had spent Christmas and many went to mass.

UNITA and the formerly Marxist MPLA have been struggling for power since independence from Portugal in 1975, and successive attempts by the United Nations and mediating countries to end the conflict have foundered.

The Luanda government estimates that Savimbi still has some 35,000 men in arms.

missing
in Congo

Nine European
soldiers were
killed in a
clash between
the army and
rebels in
Congo.

ps clash
rebels

Fighting broke
out between
the army and
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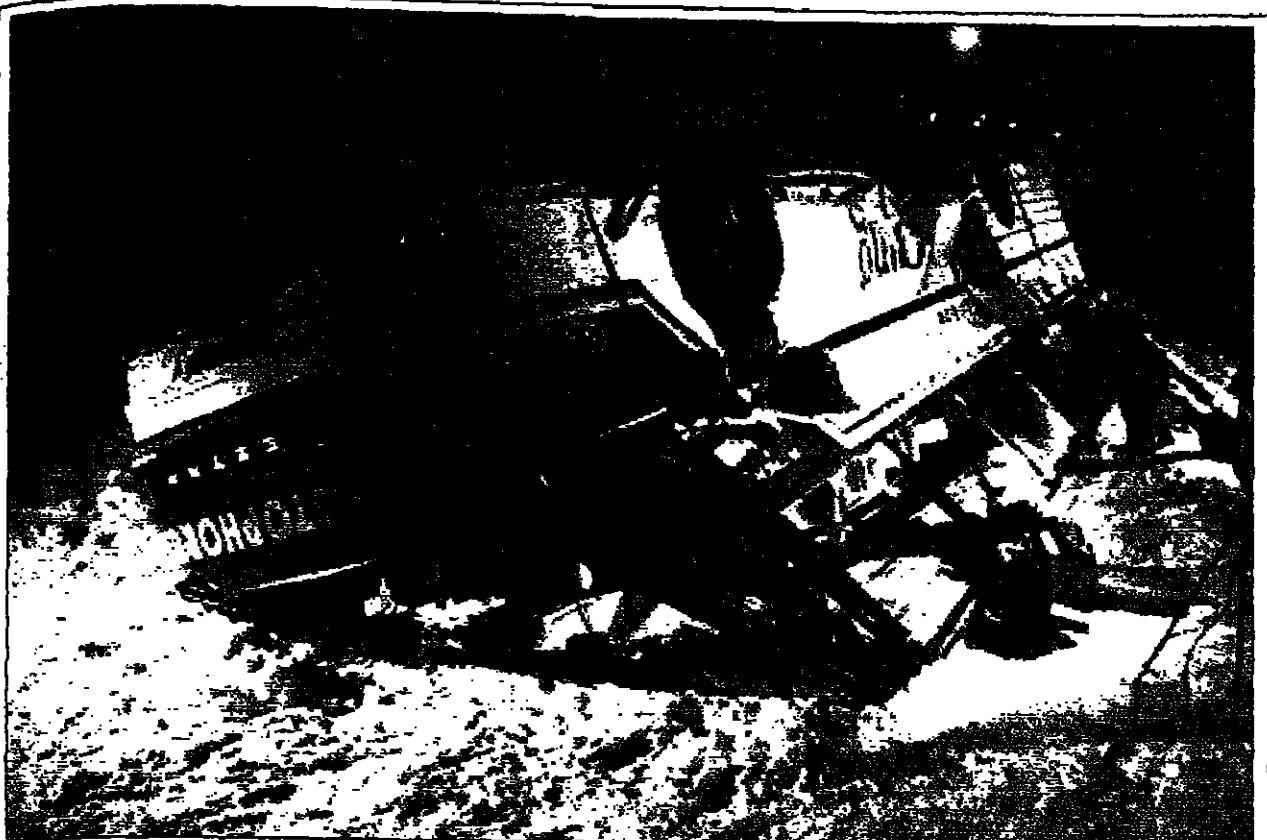
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casts doubts
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A Hindu
missionary
said the
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ding fire kills

World News



Two Dutch tourists were killed and some 30 people injured in a bus crash in the Tyrol region of western Austria, police said Wednesday. The bus came off the road in heavy snow and ploughed 20 metres down a slope late Tuesday near the town of Mayerhofen, southeast of Innsbruck, a spokesman said. The vehicle was not using snow chains, he added. The accident came only two days after 18 Hungarian teenagers were killed in a bus crash near Graz in southern Austria, while heading for a skiing holiday (AFP photo)

Colombian earthquake's survivors huddle on streets

ARMENIA, Colombia (R) — Survivors of Colombia's killer earthquake spent a second night in makeshift shelters without light or drinking water Wednesday as rescuers uncovered more victims left by the powerful tremor, which killed at least 628 people.

With officials in this provincial capital in Colombia's coffee-growing heartland predicting the final death toll could top 2,000, rescuers hauled rubble aside with their bare hands in the hope of finding survivors.

The presidential palace in Bogota confirmed that there were 628 people dead and more than 2,700 injured across a disaster zone spanning 30 towns and villages in five provinces, and it declared the stricken region a disaster area.

But officials on the scene said they expected the body count from Monday's earthquake, which measured 6.0 on the Richter scale, to rise sharply.

"Realistically and unfortunately, from what can be seen here — and only 25 per cent of the rubble has been removed — the death toll is going to surpass 2,000," Congress President Fabio Valencia told reporters in Armenia, which bore the brunt of the quake.

At least 432 people are known to have died in the city and the adjacent town of Calarca.

The scale of destruction was such that corpses were being laid out on plastic sheets at Armenia's sports stadium. Scarce coffins were being sold for up to \$1,500 on a flourishing black market, local media reported.

Hampered by heavy rain and intermittent aftershocks, firefighters and civil defence workers carefully pulled aside the debris from a three-story building in the centre of Armenia, trying to reach a 12-year-old boy trapped since Monday. The boy was in good spirits and joked with his potential saviours, they said.

"Depending on the conditions and if there's air, somebody could survive for five or six days," firefighter Jaime Hoyos said.

"Just knowing that somebody may be under these stops you from being hungry, tired or afraid. You just go on, with the hope of getting them out."

President Andres Pastrana, who toured the disaster zone Tuesday, pledged about \$12.5 million in immediate government aid and said he was expecting to receive up to \$100 million from multilateral organisations for an area that contains some of Colombia's most prized coffee plantations.

More than 250 disaster specialists from Mexico, the United States, Japan and France were on their way to the region, he said.

"Now is the time for all Colombians to pay back those who for years have collected coffee beans with their own hands, generating progress and employment," Pastrana said in a televised speech.

But in the rubble-strewn streets of Armenia, where about half the buildings have been levelled, survivors huddled under tarpaulins set up along sidewalks with an occasional sofa or chair rescued from the ruins serving as furniture.

Some cars drove through the rubble-strewn streets with two or three coffins stacked on their roofs.

Regional authorities issued radio appeals for food, clothing, drinking water, portable power generators and coffins, but little help appeared to have reached the victims.

Earthquakes are common in this Andean nation, but most are centred so deep beneath the earth's crust that they do little or no damage. Monday's quake was the country's worst in at least 16 years and Colombia's largest natural disaster since November 1985, when some 25,000 people died in an avalanche of mud and rock in the central province of Tolima.

Kosovo rebels issue boldest challenge yet to political leader

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — The U.S. envoy to Kosovo set a meeting with ethnic Albanian rebels Wednesday, following their latest bid to challenge the leadership of the moderate politician favoured by the West.

U.S. envoy Christopher Hill was to meet with representatives of the Kosovo Liberation Army at an undisclosed location in the Albanian-majority Serb province. No details have been announced, but Hill has been seeking to enlist KLA support for a U.S. plan envisaging autonomy for Kosovo that falls short of the rebels demand for independence.

To the north of Pristina Wednesday, the ethnic Albanian Kosovo Information Centre reported an attack by government forces on five villages in the Podujevo area. No details or confirmation were available.

The meeting with the guerrillas comes a day after the Kosovo Liberation Army announced plans to establish a "constituent assembly" to rival that presided over by moderate leader Ibrahim Rugova.

The rebel statement also demanded that Kosovo Albanian politicians begin transferring money donated by Albanians abroad to the KLA within 10 days or face unspecified measures in the "interests of the Albanian people."

The statement was issued as British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook was finalising plans for calling a peace conference of Kosovo Albanians and the Serb government to determine the long-term future of the province, part of Serbia, the dominant Yugoslav republic.

In Cairo, U.S. officials travelling with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Wednesday she was pushing a plan that would give Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic only a few weeks to agree to a plan for Kosovo with a self-rule formula. No details were revealed, but apparently the threat of NATO force was to be used on Milosevic.

More than 2,000 people have been killed and hundreds of thousands made homeless in a year of fighting between government forces and the KLA.

British officials said major powers were determined to proceed with a conference, even if the disparate ethnic Albanian leadership fails to put together a common negotiating team.

But the KLA statement appeared to show the rebels are still refusing to accept Rugova's leadership or any formula that falls short of full independence for Kosovo, a province of Yugoslavia's main republic, Serbia.

Hill, and his European Union counterpart, Wolfgang Petritsch of Austria, were expected to discuss the plan with KLA representatives.

Earlier Tuesday, the rebels stated their terms for endorsing peace talks. At a news conference here, an aide to KLA spokesman Adem Demaci demanded an end to Serb "massacres" and military offensives, a withdrawal of government forces from the province and the release of all ethnic Albanian "political prisoners."

Talks between the Serbs and ethnic Albanians were provided for in the Oct. 12 agreement between Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke, which ended seven months of intense fighting and the wholesale destruction of ethnic Albanian villages here.

Major powers fear fighting could explode across the province by spring unless a viable solution is found. Those tears were heightened by the discovery Jan. 16 of the bodies of 45 ethnic Albanians in Rasak in what international peace monitors described as a massacre by Serb police.

The government claims the victims were rebels killed in battle and refused to allow a U.N. war crimes tribunal to investigate the Rasak killings. But it did permit a team of Finnish pathologists to join Yugoslav experts in examining the bodies.

Tuesday, the head of the Finnish forensic team said that the truth about the deaths may never be known because the bodies had been moved, first by ethnic Albanian civilians and later by Serb police.

Helena Ranta said this meant investigators could not rule out evidence-tampering or contamination.

Yugoslavia's health minister, Miodrag Kovac, told reporters in Pristina that, based on the government's examination of 37 bodies so far, he could "only say that all the injuries were caused by firearms and from a distance" rather than at close range, execution-style.

Indonesia mulls letting go of East Timor

JAKARTA (AFP) — Indonesia may let go of the troubled territory of East Timor if Jakarta's latest offer of wide-ranging autonomy is rejected by the majority of the population there, a minister said Wednesday.

"A regional autonomy 'plus' will be accorded to East Timor," Information Minister Yunus Yosfiah said.

"If this is not accepted by the mass in East Timor, we will suggest to the new membership of the People's Consultative Assembly formed as the result of the next elections, to release East Timor from Indonesia," Yosfiah said.

The announcement was made after a routine monthly cabinet meeting on political and security affairs chaired by President B.J. Habibie.

"This is very democratic, because the people decide, not the president," Yosfiah said.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas confirmed the cabinet meeting had decided that if the autonomy proposal was rejected, the government would suggest the separation of East Timor to the new parliament elected in June.

The elections will be the first since the fall of Suharto, who ordered the invasion of the former Portuguese colony in 1975.

Diplomats here were taken by surprise, and said they wanted to see the fine print of the proposal, which they noted came before the scheduled opening of talks between Lisbon and Jakarta on the autonomy proposal in New York Thursday.

"It is a complete surprise, but we have to carefully study this proposition," said one Western diplomat.

He was referring to how the Timorese people are going to be consulted.

"We have also no idea about how a debate on such a question could take place in the next assembly with the conditions in Indonesia now," the diplomat added.

If autonomy is "rejected or results in a deadlock... it is only fair and wise and even democratic and constitutional to suggest to the upcoming elected people's representatives to allow East Timor to separate from Indonesia in a dignified and good manner," Alatas said.

However, the foreign minister added that "we have not reached that point because we are still proposing a comprehensive solution on the problem of East Timor and we will continue to discuss the extended autonomy."

Alatas said Jakarta was still convinced that it was "the most appropriate and fair" proposal for a comprehensive solution there.

"A referendum, after five or even 10 years, is not the best way because it will lead to conflict or civil war," Alatas said.

"We do not need to wait five or ten years, if they do not want the comprehensive settlement that we propose, they can immediately separate in a good and dignified way," Alatas said.

He added that so far, the government of Indonesia had made no economic gain from East Timor but had on the contrary poured funds into the territory to develop it and its population.

Fastlink Congratulates



H.R.H. Prince Abdullah Bin Al Hussein On His Appointment As Crown Prince



Fastlink
Keep Close

GSM

Photograph by Zohrab

Jordan Times

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Stray missiles, stray policies

IT IS strikingly odd that while Washington admits its missiles have hit civilian targets in Basra on Monday, it still puts the blame for the civilian deaths on Baghdad. It is hard to sympathise with the logic of U.S. reasoning especially at a time when it confesses that its "highly accurate" rockets swerved from their intended target and hit residential areas.

The U.S. decision to declare parts of northern and southern Iraq as no-fly zones is a unilateral decision devoid of international legitimacy. Russian President Boris Yeltsin raised this point recently by calling on Washington to stop taking unilateral military actions against Iraq. But the U.S. seems to be in no listening mood. Washington still persists in pursuing its agenda on that Arab country, most probably, encouraged by the outcome of the recent Arab foreign ministerial meeting in Cairo. With no Arab summit looming on the horizon, the U.S. interprets the Arab posture as a licence to continue its policy towards Iraq and its people with impunity.

During the Gulf War in 1991, several U.S. "smart" missiles hit many civilian targets including a shelter in the heart of Baghdad in which Iraqi women and children sought refuge from the war. We all remember with horror the results of a U.S. weapon that went astray then. No amount of apologies would compensate the Iraqi people for the human loss then or now.

It seems that Washington is bent on seeing only one side of the equation of the Arab scene and insists on its own interpretation of the Arab pulse on Iraq. While the recent Arab ministerial meeting in Cairo appeared inconclusive and the prospects of holding an Arab summit seem now to be remote, the U.S. will be committing a grave error if it ignored the sentiment of Arab peoples manifested during last month's meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union. The U.S. should therefore sense the Arab mood because ignoring that would not be in the interest of the U.S. or its Arab allies.

The Iraqi situation has been prolonged for much too long. It is time for an honest, fair and equitable reassessment. Driving the Iraqi people further into desperation smacks of more trouble ahead. Sound and sensible diplomacy is what we and Iraq need most. Enough is enough. It is high time to call a spade a spade.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Mufid Nahleh said that although the Drought Committee feels that Jordan has only been affected by the drought as much as all the countries in the Mediterranean region, the situation in the Kingdom is dangerous and needs all parties' attention. Everybody is aware of the drought and how scarce the Kingdom's water resources are, Nahleh said. Thus, he said, administrations responsible for water issues have to establish strategies to support water reserves and search for safe alternatives in order to ensure that water is available in the coming years. The committee is concentrating on grazing land, support for livestock breeders and providing water to their animals while at the same time ignoring other important factors in cities, the badia and the countryside, said the writer. The committee has allocated JD150 million to cope with the effects of the drought, but this is not enough to provide water even for a month, said Nahleh. The biggest problem facing city communities is water shortage, and the country's economy and tourism will be harmed if such should occur, the writer warned.

Al Dustour's Mazen Saket said the contamination of the Zai Water Treatment Plant's water is still being reviewed by the courts and thus the media are banned from reporting on it. But the water crisis, pollution, even the plant's capabilities and its possible dysfunction, are very important issues to citizens, Saket added. Even though the administrative matters are in court, the situation at Zai needs immediate and decisive action by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation. Just like any construction, water and desalination projects require maintenance, expansion and development, but these elements were almost absent during the past years as a result of a lack of proper planning and budgeting. This led such projects into serious problems, and the state of the Kingdom's 14 treatment plants proves this, according to Saket, who called for an immediate review of all treatment plants, including Zai, in order to prevent any future crisis.

Studies, activities and parental attitudes

THERE ARE many parents in our society who have, especially recently, become amply conscious of the various needs of their children during their school years. Children need to study, learn, acquire information and become competent in the many subjects they take at school, but they also need to grow, develop and evolve in many other ways — and to have fun.

Hence you find such parents making it a point to involve their children in various activities, throughout the academic year itself and in the summer vacation: sports, music, reading groups, camps of sorts, etc. They also make it a point to take their children with them to the movies, shops, restaurants, picnics, etc. One learns from books, but one also learns from experience. In today's fast-changing world, where information technologies

have changed quantitatively and qualitatively, individuals cannot confine their knowledge and experience to books.

Acquiring information is important, but acquiring general skills is also important. It is a must to know historical, scientific and general facts, for example. But it is also a must to be able to socialise with relatives and friends, to hold intelligent discussions with friends and acquaintances, to buy commodities of sorts and bargain with salesmen, to go out and watch movies, to dine out, to play sports, etc.

This is all fine, some may hasten to say. Where is the problem?

The problem lies in a majority of parents in our part of the world, especially in the less privileged segments of our society who think that their children's sole job during the academic year is to study. Most such parents want their chil-

dren to spend most of their time, if not all of it, with books. And what books? Not books which you check out of the library or books which you buy from bookstores, but textbooks.

Some of these parents dismiss the notion that their children can study, get involved in other activities, and play at the same time. There is no sense whatsoever not only of time organisation, and of sorting out priorities, but also of the fact that sports, outings, socialising, movies, peer gatherings, etc. are important to students' personal growth and development. Anything other than studying is a waste of time.

This is why such parents prevent their children from playing, from going out, from watching television, from socialising, from reading books outside the school syllabus and from a number of other activities.

View from Academia



Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

Many students who come from this particular segment of our society grow up lacking many essential needs — psychological, physiological, intellectual and social. Their parents want them to be textbook-worms. For what purpose? For the sole purpose of getting

high grades in exams, and not for the purpose, even, of acquiring information or knowledge.

There is a problem, at this level — a big problem. Many of our students reach adulthood and are ignorant of the most basic skills. They do not know how to buy from salesmen, they do not know how to socialise adequately, they do not know how to express themselves effectively, they do not know how to cook the simplest of meals, they do not know how to check a book out from the library, they do not know how to cross the street, etc. There are so many things which they do not know in fact.

Life and school can go together — must go together. This is what many parents in our society need to learn. It is a must not only to enlighten parents about this but also to help and empower them to help and empower their children.



Of gentle breezes, hot air and winds of change

WITH ALL due respect to those in both the public and private sectors talking in the past few days about major reform, the forecast for Amman does not in my opinion include the prospect of strong winds of change. Jordan is stuck in the middle of more than one major crisis in a volatile region, and the troubles of Iraq, Palestine and other parts of the Middle East mean that the priority for Jordanians remains stability and security. Happily, Jordan has been secure and stable for some time now, and that is certainly a blessing. However, these overriding considerations will continue to take priority over things like strong economic growth, innovative change, and a major overhaul of state institutions as well as the socio-economic system in general. In such a context, the winds of change are likely to be light breezes.

Nevertheless, change must come. The brutal truth is that the present economic system cannot continue in the current regional context without more and more foreign aid. This help from our friends abroad may appear like the kiss of life to some; in fact it is the kiss of death, insofar as many Jordanians are becoming more dependent on help from the outside. The economy in general and the government in particular is starting to be kept afloat economically by more foreign aid. This is a recipe for disaster.

What we have experienced over the last few years was not in fact strong winds of change so much as powerful blasts of hot air from people in the public and private sector alike spouting slogans in a desperate attempt to beautify an ugly system and shore up a sagging economy. Such pronouncements — whether made by Jordanians or others — have ended up as being grossly misleading to businesses. Sending the wrong signals to people is part of the cause of the present crisis. When the Peace Train crashed in 1996, Jordanian economic development in general and investment in some sectors in particular got out of kilter with regional politics. Partly as a result of this, Jordanians continued to get poorer in 1996-98, with growth in population running higher than the expansion of the economy. The current year will probably not be better, with officials projecting economic expansion of three per cent, about the same level as the rise in the population. Of course, this is a fiasco, particularly as

the Amman media which are directly run by the state or indirectly influenced by the government have been throwing cheerful economic news at us. Amman remains dominated by the 'Clean Laundry' school of political economy, which insists that only good things be said about Jordan outside the country, and the 'Squeaky Clean' fanatics who refuse to say anything bad both here and abroad are very powerful too. All these people have not stopped telling us that Jordan's economy has to a large extent been stabilised compared to the period of upheaval of the late 1980s. However, that was a decade ago. Jordan had been seen as a "star pupil" of the IMF thanks to apparently successful years of economic reform. However, even if this is true it should not continue to be cause for self-congratulation. Structural adjustment simply means that you were doing something wrong, and that now this has to be corrected. (Whether the structural adjustment currently foisted on us is a good thing itself is another story entirely). Whatever happens to the economy over the next few years, Jordan needs clearer heads to evaluate and debate the economic facts publicly. The people who run the country must be more open in disseminating economic information and in explaining reforms fully to the public. Debate and discussion of policies and consensus building for policy choices must also be undertaken. Better understanding of economic policies by the public enhances the credibility and acceptability of policies and also ensures accountability on the part of governments. Otherwise, it's back to the extremes of official obfuscation confronting public scepticism.

As I have mentioned in a previous column, the start of a solution is for the government to first admit that the economy is in bad shape. The first step must be for as high an official as possible to say as loudly as possible that the economy is a mess. To continue to talk about external factors without mentioning internal ones such as corruption, overmanning, slow decision-making, and many other public sector issues is misleading. Not that these problems are going to be solved overnight, but honesty by the government is a prerequisite for changes in the public sector which are vital if Jordan is to develop. This is a tall order, but a start can be made in the present period of

Developing World



Riad al Khouri

'Amman remains dominated by the 'Clean Laundry' school of political economy and the 'Squeaky Clean' fanatics'

change.

The partnership between civil society, the private sector, governments and multilateral institutions that World Bank President James Wolfensohn evoked in September of last year at the Mediterranean Development Forum in Marrakech would also be a good thing for Jordan. One of the challenges faced in the country today is how to improve access to economic information. This information is in the hands of both governments and development agencies such as the World Bank. It would be nice for the bank and our government to support a series of meetings that would bring together state agencies and local economists to discuss actions that would lead to better information sharing.

Such a step, if supported by the government, would help to allow more effective public debate of economic problems. Such constructive airing of our difficulties could be a step in the right direction. The alternative is for the hot air to continue to blow, instead of winds of change.

LETTERS

A long way to go

To the Editor:

I AM A Jordanian woman who lives in the United States. I did not have the opportunity to watch the 20/20 programme, however, it created such a controversy here that all my American colleagues, were asking me about this practice and expressing horror and shock and disdain for Jordan as a country and its "backward" people. Of course, I was caught off guard: I have always known that in extreme cases, this sort of thing occurs in Jordan, but that it is not the norm and it is not really accepted in our society as a "tradition" as is now believed in the U.S.

Needless to say, I was humiliated and did my best to give all kinds of arguments to explain that this is really not what Jordan is all about, and it is not tradition and it is not normal. I know that this practice is horrible and the Jordanian government should exert great efforts to prevent such murders.

One the other hand, I find it very hard to understand why the Western media insist on portraying Arabs as cold-blooded, backward, savage murderers. If we look at the crime statistics across the Arab World, we find that it is the lowest in the world. In the U.S., rape is such a common crime that, on average, an American woman is likely to be raped every minute.

A pool of very well-educated and professional women across the Arab World have achieved a measurable level of progress in establishing the basis of women's rights, but it seems that we still have a long way to go.

Nida Abu-Rumman
U.S.

Together we'll build peace

To the Editor:

THE MAJOR developments that have taken place in this century, including sophisticated weaponry, have shown that mankind and the environment are threatened with total ruin and destruction.

Violence in many forms has been assaulting human societies, and many people have been suffering in silence from the use of violence against them. We must exert our greatest efforts to stop such practices. Violence only creates pain and instability, and there is more to come in a sick planet that is threatened with complete devastation.

• Let us teach peace: Let us implant it in our children's hearts and bring them up on this principle. This will be the first step towards building a world of peace and security, to ensure a safe and better future life for our children.

• Let us teach our children that violence is the weapon of ignorant persons, and that tolerance and peace are the weapons of the wise.

• Let us teach them to defend their opinions with argument, as violence has never won an argument.

• Let us teach them that tolerance is the weapon of the strong, and vengeance is that of the weak.

• Let us teach them that tolerance sometimes is even tougher than violence.

Together we can build a world of peace for us all!

Mohammad Abu Jaber
Amman

Be logical

To the Editor:

I WONDER why political analysts writing about the Arabs never refer to the real reason behind many of our problems? Why don't they analyse Arab psychology?

I don't agree with those who think that our tragedy is because of U.S., U.K. or U.N. The reason isn't political, it is cultural. We are an emotional rather than logical people. We are more concerned with form than essence. It is time for us to behave logically and stop allowing our emotions to dictate our future!

Mohammad AL Btoush
Karak

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any issue they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld upon request but only under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing and abridging.

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Life did
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By Tim Racht

Why

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The spy who made McCarthy

By Julian Borger

LIKE PATHOLOGISTS trying to explain a freak viral outbreak, American historians have been peering over the McCarthyist phenomenon for the past half-century, striving to explain how a small group of legislators, the House Un-American Activities Committee, managed to paralyse U.S. democracy and scar a generation. But the great, ironic secret at the committee's roots has emerged only now, in Moscow. According to newly unearthed KGB files, the committee's founding father — the man who paved the way for Senator Joe McCarthy's witch-hunts — was a Soviet spy.

His name was Samuel Dickstein, a Democratic congressman from Manhattan who created the committee's prototype in 1934 as a means for hunting down home-grown Nazis.

His campaign against the spread of American fascism and his post-war service as a New York judge are honoured by a commemorative collection of his papers in the American Jewish Archives.

But to the NKVD (the KGB's precursor) Dickstein was an important, if troublesome, agent whose mercenary instincts earned him the codename 'Crook'. For just over two years, at the onset of the World War II, his handlers believed he was worth the money. It was the first and — as far as anyone knows — the last time the Soviet spymasters managed to 'buy' a member of Congress.

Dickstein's espionage has come to light now as a result of an unusual deal struck by the U.S. publishers Random House and the KGB's old-boy network, the Association of Retired Intelligence Officers. In return for a lump-sum payment, two researchers — Allen Weinstein, a U.S. espionage expert, and Alexander Vassiliev, a retired Russian agent — had roughly two years, 1994 to 1996, to rummage through an assortment of KGB dossiers. They were then able to check

what they found against U.S. intercepts of Soviet intelligence communications from the period.

In their book *The Haunted Wood*, Weinstein and Vassiliev portray an unfamiliar America, where some of the richest and brightest of the New Deal era vied with one another to spy for Stalin. It was the high-water mark of the American left. The *Haunted Wood* describes a world where: 'Avowed or covert Communists, democratic socialists, farmer-labour activists, and Roosevelt Democrat loyalists found common ground within the many new agencies and older departments of FDR's government.'

The spies who sprouted from this ferment came in many varieties. Alongside Dickstein, who sold his services mainly for money, there were egalitarian New Deal policy wonks, who spied out of anti-fascist conviction, and the daughter of the U.S. ambassador in Berlin, who did it for love and sex.

Another traitor unmasked by Weinstein and Vassiliev is Lawrence Duggan, the head of the Latin American section in Roosevelt's State Department, who was apparently desperate to strike a covert blow for socialism.

According to Boris Bazarov, the Washington station chief, Duggan told his Soviet handlers: 'The only thing which kept him at his hateful job in the State Department where he did not get out of his tuxedo for two weeks, every night attending a reception, was the idea of being useful for our cause.' From the NKVD documents, Duggan comes across as a typical member of a substantial group of young American intellectuals, which included Alger Hiss — another rising State Department star in the late thirties. Their faith in the American way of life had been shaken by the Wall Street crash and the Depression, and they viewed the Soviet Union as the most effective remaining bulwark against Hitler.

Dickstein was different. He was 42 years old when he first made contact

with Soviet agents in 1937. By then he had been a congressman for the Lower East Side for 15 years, and was very much part of the corrupt world of big city politics. There is evidence that he demanded under-the-counter payments from immigrants for help in securing U.S. visas.

In *The Haunted Wood*, the Lithuanian-born New Yorker emerges as a jaded and cynical player. He put a price on his information, and let it be known he was available to the highest bidder. He began by offering details on Russian rightwingers living in the U.S., but went on to supply secret details of the 1940 war budget.

He demanded \$2,500 per month for his work and complained bitterly when he was tentatively offered a fifth of that amount. It was at this point his handlers dubbed him the 'Crook'. One of them noted in his report back to Moscow: 'We are fully aware who we are dealing with. "Crook" is completely justifying his code name. This is an unscrupulous type, greedy for money, consented to work because of money, a very cunning swindler. When the Soviets withheld payments — suspecting (with some justification) they were being palmed commonly-available gossip at absurdly high prices — Dickstein complained he had been paid by British intelligence "without any questions".'

Weinstein, a veteran U.S. spy-watcher, says he and Vassiliev (who now lives in Britain) were unable to stand up Dickstein's claims to be a part-time British agent, because our intelligence records from the era remain sealed. 'It was his claim. It could have been a boast. At this point there's no way of telling,' Weinstein says.

But Dickstein's Soviet handler, Peter Gutzeit, took him at his word and was clearly taken aback by such brazen promiscuity. 'We are shocked,' Gutzeit sniffed to his superiors 'but here it is normal.' Dickstein clearly saw selling secrets as a lucrative side-

line to his legislative work, maximising the financial returns of office. But leaving through some of his personal records in the National Archives, it is at least possible to conceive of another, more sympathetic, side to Dickstein.

The files suggest that he went in search of NKVD troubles only after his self-styled crusade against the Nazis was mutated by a Congress steeped in anti-Semitism into the red-baiting witch-hunt it ultimately became.

In a December 1933 radio address, Dickstein set out the case for his Special Committee on Un-American Activities. While chairman of the Immigration and Naturalisation Committee, he said he had unearthed enough evidence of German infiltration 'to define the Nazi government here as the most dangerous threat to our democracy that has ever existed'.

He pointed to new pro-Nazi organisations springing up across the U.S., such as the Friends of New Germany, and the Silver Shirts of America, which espoused the creation of a racially pure Aryan society and the segregation of Jews.

When his proposal went to the floor of the House in March 1934, however, it met determined resistance. One congressman warned against an 'investigation of the German government or the so-called "persecution" of the Jews in Germany'.

Another congressman, from Texas, waxed lyrical about his state's tolerance for Jews.

'Throughout my life, I have been friendly with the Jewish race. We played together as boys... Some of my closest friends in life have been Jews. In every place in Texas where I have lived there has been no discrimination whatever against Jews. As a Jewish immigrant himself, Dickstein would have been aware of the realities of the American

South as the plight of the Jews in Germany.

But to win his prize, he said what was required of him, promising Congress: 'This committee has nothing to do with the affairs being conducted in Germany... We are not interested in what happens in Germany.' Dickstein got his committee, but the chairmanship went instead to John McCormack of Massachusetts, who divided its investigations equally between U.S. Nazi sympathisers and a range of left-wing groups including trade unions. By 1937, Dickstein began looking for other outlets for his anti-Nazi zeal and had become a paid Soviet agent.

When the committee was reconstituted in 1938 as the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) under the rightwing leadership of Martin Dies, it turned almost its entire attention to the pursuit of suspected communists. Dickstein failed to win a seat on the new panel. He looked on powerlessly in 1939 as U.S. 'brown-shirts' under the leadership of the 'American Führer', Fritz Kuhn, rallied in Madison Square Garden.

Without access to HUAC's inner workings, he was of diminishing interest to his Soviet spymasters. Having paid him a total of \$12,000 (now worth about

\$133,000), the NKVD decided in 1940 that he was more trouble than he was worth.

After five more years in Congress, Dickstein served as a New York judge until he died in 1954. Senator Joseph McCarthy fell from grace the same year, but by then Dickstein's mutant creation had run amok across the U.S.

The committee itself stumbled on until 1976, when Congress finally killed it off. The damage it had done to American society is still visible today — for example in the almost physical horror of socialism and social democracy.

After all these years, it is somehow fitting to discover that it was the brain-child of a traitor.

— The Guardian



Life didn't start with a bang. It didn't start at all

By Tim Radford

The history of time is no longer brief. The universe never actually began; it bubbled off some other, pre-existing universe. And it will not come to an end: other parts of the universe are being created now. 'If life in our part of the universe were to disappear, it will appear again somewhere else,' the cosmological theorist Andrei Linde told the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Anaheim, California. 'So the universe as a whole becomes immortal.' Professor Linde, the Russian physicist based at Stanford University, is one of the architects of the new universe theories. He has discarded the Big Bang version made famous (and understandable) by the Cambridge cosmologist Stephen Hawking.

Linde does not believe that everything began 15 billion years ago but sees the universe in which human life developed as just one of many inflating balls of space time that in turn produce new balls, and so on for ever.

The original idea was that all the universe appeared as an explosion of very hot matter, a huge ball of fire. This was not big enough, not fast enough, not explosive

enough," he said.

The original hypothesis did not explain why the universe looked much the same in all directions, or why there were so many things in it.

In the inflation scenario, an extremely small fragment of space expanded to an area far, far larger than the visible universe in an unimaginable fraction of a second, and everything in that space — atoms, stars and light — condensed out of the colossal energy released by the inflation.

'Right now there are some other parts of the universe where newer and newer parts are being produced: they are inflating and expanding exponentially and then they come to a stage similar, or maybe dissimilar, to ours,' he said. 'The universe contained 100 billion galaxies each with 100 billion stars. "If you start with a typical Big Bang universe with a typical size with a typical density initially and then you count how many particles the universe would contain, the answer would be one particle, or maybe 10 particles, but not the amount of particles necessary to make one journalist," he said. "So the fact that you are here is proof something was wrong with the Big Bang theory."

— The Guardian

Fossil shows speedy dinosaurs

The Associated Press

THE BEST-PRESERVED dinosaur fossil ever found suggests some of the extinct animals had the super-powerful lungs needed to be fast and deadly hunters.

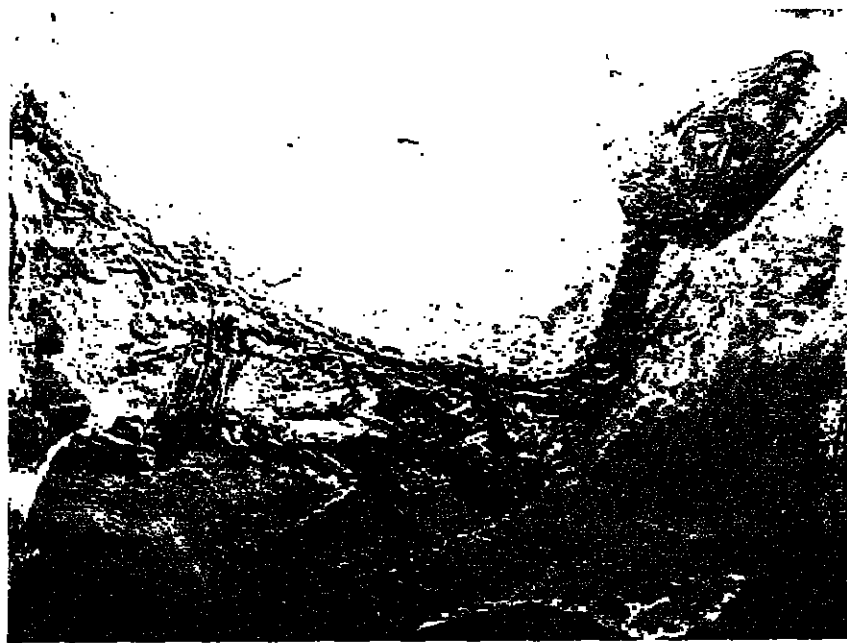
A 110 million-year-old fossil of a baby dinosaur called *Scipionyx* is so well-preserved that researchers believe it bears the image of some of the animal's internal organs, said Nicholas Geist, a paleobiologist at Oregon State University.

'The extraordinary condition of the fossils allows us to hang some meat on the bones of these animals,' said Geist, the senior author of a study which appeared last week in the journal *Science*.

'What you usually get in fossils is just bones, but in this one there are remnants of liver, large intestine, windpipe and muscle,' he said. 'It is like a Rosetta stone for dinosaurs.' *Scipionyx* was a theropod, a type of meat-eating dinosaur that walked on its hind legs, had a long tail, small forearms and a big head with a large mouth and teeth.

The soft tissue impressions show that the *Scipionyx* had a two-partitioned abdominal cavity, with the lungs and heart in one section and the liver and guts in the other. The liver was connected by muscle to a pelvic bone, Geist said, suggesting the animal had a breathing system called a hepatic piston.

In such a system, muscles pull against the liver, causing the breathing cavity to expand slightly. That forces air into the



Meat-eating dinosaurs may have been technically reptilian, but they could run fast enough and long enough to chase down any prey they wanted (Reuters photo)

lungs at a high rate.

'This is necessary for sustained activity,' said Geist.

'These theropods were exceedingly fast and dangerous animals.'

They were not slow and sluggish like many modern reptiles. 'Mammals have a diaphragm muscle that causes the lung cavity to expand and draw in air. The ability to rapidly ventilate the lungs is essential for moving swiftly for long periods.'

Dinosaurs' lung capacity may be one reason they dominated mammals for about 150 million years, said Geist. Mammals during this period were small and not much for the meat-eating dinosaur.

'These dinosaurs were fierce animals that could run prey down over extended distances,' Geist said. 'This was like a turbocharged lizard. The mammals couldn't get a foothold and just tried to stay out of the way.' The hepatic piston works best in a warm, mild climate such

as the Earth enjoyed during most of the dinosaur era. When the climate chilled, the dinosaurs were in trouble, Geist said.

'These animals may have been so specialised for the warm climate, that even a minor change over an extended period may have helped to doom them,' he said.

But not all experts agree that the *Scipionyx* fossil gives such precise evidence of a hepatic pump breathing system, said Paul Sorensen, a dinosaur expert at the University of Chicago.

'For many in the field, that interpretation is controversial,' said Sorensen. The *Scipionyx* fossil, the only dinosaur ever found in Italy, is small enough to hold in two hands and the animal may have been only days old when it died, Geist said. It perished in a saltwater marsh that preserved its body structure.

No fossil for an adult *Scipionyx* has been found and Geist said the animal species probably grew to only about the size of a large dog.

Going it alone or engaging in a spot of networking

By Jean-Claude Elias

chip talk



THOSE WHO started their love affair with personal computers in the eighties know all too well how many times they had to change their computing habits and ways of dealing with the machines. What was unthinkable in 1985 for instance became feasible in 1990 and daily routine in 1995. Now high-quality colour printing at home has reached a new dimension. Internet is something you can't live without and CD players have graduated from mere trendy gadgets to indispensable devices.

Still, the most dramatic change in personal computing is the increasing usage of local area networking (LAN). The privilege of large mainframe computer and giant corporations until about 1990, computer networks have become affordable and easy to handle. People are discovering the advantage of connecting PCs — sharing data, sharing resources, transferring information, making back ups from one system to another, and so forth. They are also discovering their disadvantages at the same time — reduced data security and confidentiality, higher risk of infection by viruses, slower processing, and the like.

The Internet actually is the most common form of networking since it connects your PC to the external world (i.e. to other

computers), albeit only for the duration of the connection, that is until you hang up or shut off the modem.

Small and medium-sized firms were afraid of the complexity of LANs, now the whole setup and work procedure have become user-friendly. It's even feasible for private users. I know of some homes in Amman which are equipped with LANs where 2, 3 or even 4 PCs are interconnected. This provides the enormous advantages to share expensive peripherals for example — just buy one laser printer or one scanner and let all the systems on the LAN use them.

There is no rule as to whether one should or shouldn't go for networking. Generally speaking home users and small offices can live perfectly happy without a LAN. Then again, anyone with an Internet connection already has some form of networking. There is no doubt that leaving your computer 'unconnected' will ensure greater security and fewer hassles. You'll sleep better at night. In some cases though a LAN is the only answer to data sharing and to avoid buying redundant hardware. Each situation is to be analysed separately for the needs and requirements vary tremendously from one case to another.

Why worry about the Millennium? We got it wrong

By Mark Egan
Reuters

MUCH OF THE world plans to welcome a new Millennium on Jan. 1, 2000. But one scientist says that celebration could be a few seconds off, or a year early, or less than a year early — or maybe many years off the mark.

Harvard University astrophysicist Owen Gingerich on Saturday dubbed the current Millennium excitement "the odometer syndrome," likening this irrational exuberance to children waiting for a car's mileage counter to change from 999 to 1000.

But not wanting to spoil the Millennium celebrations of those listening to his speech at the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting, Gingerich had a suggestion.

'Why not celebrate twice? So when exactly is the Millennium? "That's a different question from the one I'm going to answer," Gingerich replied in true

academic fashion. "I'm going to say 2001 because that is how it goes on the calendar cycle that we have adopted." Going by our calendar, which was set in October 1592, the new Millennium begins on Jan. 1, 2001. That's because our calendar started in 1 A.D. since there was no year 0, Gingerich said.

But like many academic riddles, it's more complicated than that. Even the date Jan. 1, 2001, is not, strictly speaking, the start of the new Millennium. Gingerich said the basis of our current calendar comes from calculations made in the year 531 A.D. by a monk called Dionysius Exiguus, known affectionately in scientific circles as Dennis the Short.

But in the Dionysian cycle, the first year starts at the beginning of the first full calendar year of the reign of a new emperor. Therefore, since our calendar is based on the birth of Jesus Christ, who was born on Dec. 25 in the year 1 B.C., the Millennium should be celebrated on Dec. 25, 2000.

But even that is not the real Millennium.

'That is the anniversary of a non-event,' Gingerich said adding to avoid any blasphemous implications, "because Christ was already born for several years before that time. Exactly when Christ was born, I don't know, it's a very complicated and controversial business." But Gingerich said we know for sure Christ was born earlier because he was born when King Herod was still ruler of Judea and Herod is known to have died before 1 A.D. And so, Christ must have been born a few years earlier than we thought, meaning we've missed the Millennium change entirely.

'So clearly the whole system, if you're thinking there is something mystical about the year 2000, is crazy,' Gingerich said. "We had a good chance to celebrate and we blew it." On a more serious note, Gingerich said that the relationship between the Earth and the Moon also means we will miss the Millennium, albeit by a few seconds.

Each year, he said, the Moon moves further away

from Earth slowing our spinning planet by about one second annually.

"Almost every Dec. 31, you get that extra second," he said.

"So for those of you counting down to the Millennium remember to go, five, four, three, two, one, ONE. Don't celebrate a second too early." But perhaps more than anything, the Millennium gives us a little insight on how life has changed in a thousand years.

For the last Millennium, many panicked that the world was going to end. For this one, people are worried that our computers may come to a grinding halt, Gingerich said.

"Between the Y2K (year 2000) bug and the odometer syndrome, obviously the publicity is going to go with Jan. 1, 2000," Gingerich said. "So I'm willing to roll with the crowd and suggest, why not celebrate twice?"

Bank of Israel head: Budget is top priority

TEL AVIV (R) — Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel said Wednesday that the key problem facing the country's economy was parliament's failure to approve the 1999 budget.

"The main economic tool in every modern economy, including Israel, is the budget. What is happening today is a most worrying phenomenon," Frenkel told a news conference marking the release of the central bank's 1998 inflation report.

The government's 215 billion shekel (\$52.7 billion) budget has been locked in parliament since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition collapsed in December. Lawmakers have refused to vote on the package until a variety of new spending and other measures are first approved.

Earlier on Wednesday budget talks in the parliamentary finance committee fell apart, forcing legislators to put off a vote originally set for later in the day to sometime next week.

"It's important that parliament not retreat from the framework already approved by the government," Frenkel said.

He warned that it was not enough that parliament keep to the legally mandated deficit of two per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) but that spending priorities and tax levels be

set to encourage long-term growth.

His remarks were aimed at legislators who have been seeking to insert measures for their constituencies ahead of the general election scheduled for May 17.

Frenkel discounted remarks by Netanyahu in recent weeks that the prime minister planned to raise the government's inflation target for 1999 from a 4.0 per cent rate for 1998.

"The matter, to the best of my knowledge, is not on the agenda. The government adopted a certain inflation target and that is the target the Bank of Israel will try to achieve," he said.

Frenkel stressed that the Bank of Israel would continue to take a cautionary line aimed at bringing back inflation to the 4 per cent level it had fallen to in the first half of 1998.

On Monday, the bank announced it was keeping its February base lending rate at an annual 13.5 per cent.

The rate was raised by percentage points in 4 November in response to a tumbling shekel and accelerating inflation.

Both the exchange rate and inflation have since stabilised, but Frenkel said he saw no reason yet to ease his monetary stance.

"Real interest rates in Israel today are of course very high, but they must be in light of the challenges

and risks both abroad and at home," he said.

He said inflation was subject to surprise external shocks, which increased the need for a cautious monetary policy. "When we sat here a month ago, no one spoke about Brazil as a problem," he said.

Frenkel said he had not in recent weeks met Netanyahu, who since December has served also as finance minister, but said he did not think the absence of contact was hurting economic policymaking.

"Does this hurt management of monetary policy? The answer is clearly no," Frenkel said, adding that the central problem was passage of the budget in which the central bank had no direct role.

Meanwhile, a top Bank of Israel official said that the Israeli economy could grow 2-2.5 per cent this year under current conditions.

"An analysis by the research department (of the Bank of Israel) shows that current conditions support

the treasury's forecast of GDP growth of 2-2.5 per cent, as contained in the national budget," Leo Lederman, head of the central bank's research, was quoted as saying.

Lederman's remarks contrasted with assessments from most private economists, who are expecting considerably lower growth than last year's preliminary 1.9 per cent increase in gross domestic product.

Lederman cautioned, however, that the government's failure to win passage in parliament of the 1999 budget undermined the economy's long-term growth potential because it would delay plans to step up infrastructure spending.

The government now is operating in the framework of the 1998 budget.

Lederman said an unstable world economy made forecasting Israeli economic growth difficult, but he said the sharp depreciation of the Israeli shekel in October could be a bonus for the economy.

"An important condition for realising this forecast is that we operate a policy that enables a large part of the nominal depreciation of the last few months to become a real depreciation," he was quoted as saying.

He said that in that context the central bank was committed to bringing inflation down to the government's 4.0 per cent target for 1999. Inflation last year was 8.6 per cent.

Lederman said Israel's 1998 export performance was not as bad as popularly perceived.

He said the sluggish 5.2 per cent increase in merchandise exports was mainly due to falling sales of polished diamonds.

Excluding diamonds, he noted, industrial exports rose 11.6 per cent last year, similar to the 1992-1995 average.

Lederman noted that the decline in foreign investment came from financial investment while direct investment from overseas held steady.

Iran to seek \$9.5b in foreign investment

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian parliament has allowed the government to seek \$9.5 billion in foreign investment for various projects, mainly in the energy sector, newspapers have reported.

About \$6 billion is earmarked for oil projects during the Iranian year which begins on March 21, they said.

The deals will be conducted largely on a buy-back basis, which allows the government to repay

investors through a share of production.

Iran has put up some 20 oil and gas projects in the Gulf for international tender.

An international consortium led by French firm Total has already been contracted to develop the South Pars gas project in the Gulf.

Other projects up for tender include refineries in the Gulf port of Bandar-Abbas and the Gulf island of Lavan as well as in Shiraz, south of Iran, and a number

of oil platforms.

The government has also been allowed to borrow up to \$3.5 billion abroad for petrochemical, dam and sewer construction as well as satellite communication and agricultural projects.

Parliament authorised the government last week to borrow \$300 million to finance the launch of a telecommunications satellite, expected to take place during the next Iranian year.

Exchange Rates Wednesday, 27-01-99 ACCESS 4648888											
CURRENCY	JORDAN DINAAR	BAHRAIN DINAAR	OMAN RIAL	QATAR RIAL	SAUDI RIAL	YEMEN RIAL	YEMEN RIAL	YEMEN RIAL	YEMEN RIAL	YEMEN RIAL	YEMEN RIAL
JORDAN DINAAR	1.0000	0.1668	0.1627	0.1678	0.1689	0.1645	0.1645	0.1645	0.1645	0.1645	0.1645
BAHRAIN DINAAR	5.2970	1.0000	1.0210	9.4422	9.4422	12.1546	12.1546	12.1546	12.1546	12.1546	12.1546
OMAN RIAL	5.1581	0.8794	1.0000	9.4422	9.4422	12.1546	12.1546	12.1546	12.1546	12.1546	12.1546
QATAR RIAL	0.5325	0.1025	0.1026	1.0000	0.9753	1.2477	1.2477	1.2477	1.2477	1.2477	1.2477
SAUDI RIAL	0.5438	0.1027	0.1048	1.0212	1.0000	1.2477	1.2477	1.2477	1.2477	1.2477	1.2477
YEMEN RIAL	5.1427	0.8709	0.8912	9.4422	9.4422	12.1546	12.1546	12.1546	12.1546	12.1546	12.1546
YEMEN RIAL	0.4289	0.0806	0.0823	9.4422	9.4422	12.1546	12.1546	12.1546	12.1546	12.1546	12.1546
YEMEN RIAL	4.8145	0.8039	0.8280	9.4422	9.4422	12.1546	12.1546	12.1546	12.1546	12.1546	12.1546
YEMEN RIAL	21.4831	4.0557	4.1458	40.3405	38.5044	4.1774	4.1774	4.1774	4.1774	4.1774	4.1774
YEMEN RIAL	1.4124	0.2666	0.2722	2.6522	2.6973	0.2748	0.2748	0.2748	0.2748	0.2748	0.2748
YEMEN RIAL	0.8541	0.1612	0.1646	1.6037	1.6705	0.1681	0.1681	0.1681	0.1681	0.1681	0.1681
YEMEN RIAL	2.4023	0.4531	0.4626	4.5072	4.4138	0.4567	0.4567	0.4567	0.4567	0.4567	0.4567
YEMEN RIAL	1.9751	0.3729	0.3807	3.7089	3.6320	0.3841	0.3841	0.3841	0.3841	0.3841	0.3841
YEMEN RIAL	8.0531	1.5197	1.5516	15.1164	14.8031	1.5654	1.5654	1.5654	1.5654	1.5654	1.5654
YEMEN RIAL	1.5143	0.3247	0.3111	3.0312	2.9684	0.3139	0.3139	0.3139	0.3139	0.3139	0.3139
YEMEN RIAL	12.5228	0.9108	0.9213	9.0784	8.9732	0.9259	0.9259	0.9259	0.9259	0.9259	0.9259
YEMEN RIAL	23.7827	2.0620	2.1063	20.5103	20.0852	2.1239	2.1239	2.1239	2.1239	2.1239	2.1239
YEMEN RIAL	45.5095	3.3461	3.4234	44.6212	43.6963	3.4207	3.4207	3.4207	3.4207	3.4207	3.4207
YEMEN RIAL	2.4234	0.4235	0.4324	4.2126	4.1253	0.4341	0.4341	0.4341	0.4341	0.4341	0.4341
YEMEN RIAL	3.5470	0.7451	0.7608	7.4117	7.2541	0.7675	0.7675	0.7675	0.7675	0.7675	0.7675
YEMEN RIAL	2.6828	0.5366	0.5173	5.0383	4.9348	0.5218	0.5218	0.5218	0.5218	0.5218	0.5218
YEMEN RIAL	16.3871	3.1680	3.2550	31.7104	31.0532	3.2837	3.2837	3.2837	3.2837	3.2837	3.2837
YEMEN RIAL	2.1497	0.4059	0.4144	4.0367	3.9530	0.4180	0.4180	0.4180	0.4180	0.4180	0.4180
YEMEN RIAL	1.2272	0.2317	0.2385	2.3045	2.2587	0.2386	0.2386	0.2386	0.2386	0.2386	0.2386

MAJOR CURRENCIES AGAINST JORDAN DINAAR

NOTE: NEITHER ACCESS NOR THE PUBLISHER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS OR MISTAKES

DEPOSIT INTEREST RATES

CBAJA

1 M 3 M 6 M 1 YEAR

US DOLLAR 5.2600 4.8700 4.7100 4.7100

GERMAN MARK 6.2500 6.0800 5.7800 5.4700

FRANCE FRANC 5.1700 5.1000 5.0000 5.0000

NETHERLAND DOLLAR 3.5000 3.4000 3.3000 3.3000

NETHERLAND GULDER 1.3200 1.2700 1.2700 1.2700

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1999

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You're a warrior, of course, but every once in a while you get warm, snuggly feelings. That'll be happening more often while the moon's going through Cancer, the water sign that squares Aries. Water signs are emotional, and you may be surprised to find you have an emotional side. And guess what? You may even like it.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You're starting into a pensive phase today that will last into the weekend. The moon's transit through Cancer trines Jupiter in Pisces and Mars in Scorpio. This grand trine in water signs could inspire you to rekindle a bond with some special friends. They're the ones you can talk to without saying words at all. Touch bases tonight.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You've been interested in ideas lately, but now you should get interested in practical matters. Its great to do something you love, but its even better if you're getting paid for it. Once you get a job like that, work becomes play, and that possibility is out there now. In fact, its closer than you think.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 22) You're very lucky today. You're assertive, calm, gorgeous and inspirational — everything you always hoped you'd be. If any other thoughts try to get into your head, just shoo them away. Don't allow them to spoil the pretty picture you're creating for yourself. Its your life, and today you can make it be just as lovely as you want.

LEO: (July 23 to August 22) You could wake up today with a sense of foreboding, as if there's something you promised to do that you've forgotten all about. Actually, odds are high that's actually the case. So today, search your brain and your notepad and the little scraps of paper you've been carrying around in your pocket. Find all the promises you've made, and keep them.

VIRGO: (August 23 to September 22) You could have a brilliant insight today, almost as if it was handed to you from on high. If so, its because you've made yourself available for incoming messages by listening more than you speak. And today, a co-worker will be particularly verbose. Listen, but you may choose to follow your own good sense instead.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) You could make a brilliant career move today. The opportunity could come quickly, and you won't have long to act, so pay attention. There's no shortage of money, but the trick is getting it into your pocket. All you have to do is provide what's needed. The hard part is figuring out what that is, and having it there on time. Follow a hunch.

SCORPIO: (October 24 to November 21) Conditions have shifted; they're now in your favour. A lucky break is predicted, so be watching for it. Love is abundant, and growing. Yourself-confidence should be, too. You may not be in control of the situation, but that's OK. You might even choose to give up control, just for the fun of it. If you do, you'll access real power.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You may be something of a gambler, but today you'd be wise to squelch that urge. Let the house rake in somebody else's loose change. Speaking of houses, you may find a good deal in real estate or get something beautiful for your home. No gamble here. Its simply a good, solid deal. If you find something like that, go for it.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Venus is going into Pisces today, in your solar third house of education, making you even smarter than usual. Venus symbolises good luck, so does Jupiter, which is also in Pisces. So your luck should be stupendous. In this case, it has to do with education. Therefore, you should definitely sign up for a class.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) Whatever shenanigans you've been up to for the last few days apparently have not hurt your productivity, because it looks like you're being considered for a promotion or a raise. Or could it be you're in love with the person who dispenses the money? Hmm... At any rate, you're lucky, so be bold. Ask for what you want.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) Things have shifted again, and this time you're downright lucky. There's a grand trine in water signs, which makes you even luckier yet. Your intuition is good, and your attitude should be improving. But instead of racing into action, you may choose to sit and wait. Watch, listen and let someone else stick his or her neck out first.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1999

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) There's a grand trine in water signs. The water sign side of yourself might even come out. Water signs are the emotional ones. They also have intuition.

Can you see how it might be to the advantage of a warrior to have extrasensory perception? Watch and listen today, and you may be able to tune into a whole new channel.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) There's someone in your life you respect quite a bit. He or she is analytical and scientific, and comes up with more data than you can ever hope to remember. Today, this person has all the facts, but might be missing the point. That's what you have to offer, if you can find a way to communicate it effectively. Try repetition.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This looks like a good day to put a down payment on a cruise, or that scuba class in Tahiti. Put your money where your mouth is, and where your mind has been for some time. You don't have to worry about losing your luggage if you do your travelling from your armchair, but what's the point? That'll never be satisfying. Take the plunge.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 22) This would be an excellent day to fall in love. You generally like to be pursued, but today you might make an exception to that rule. You might see somebody so deliciously inviting that you can't help but ask for a date. Plan it for tonight, and it could last all the way through tomorrow morning.

LEO: (July 23 to August 22) You could come upon a bit of information today that should best be kept secret. You may not know which bit it is right now, so just keep it all to yourself. Wait and see which facts are true, and which one is just hearsay. Today its rather hard to tell, but later it'll be crystal clear.

VIRGO: (August 23 to September 22) You're supposed to be going to work, but a friend is urging you to take the day off. What a dilemma. A person with fewer scruples would probably play hooky, but, enlightened soul that you are, you recognise the enormous benefits of keeping your commitments. You'll do your job perfectly, then run off and get crazy!

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) There's more work than you

A.F.M. TRADE Wednesday, 27-01-99
ACCESS 4646868

Company	Open	Close	Change
BANKS			
ARAB BK	215.000	213.000	-0.93%
INTL BK	1.520	1.510	-0.66%
BK OF JO	1.250	1.190	-4.80%
INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK	1.530	1.510	-1.31%
THE HOUSING BK	2.840	2.700	-4.93%
JO. KUWAIT BK	1.690	1.660	-2.37%
JO. ISLAMIC BK	1.730	1.680	-2.89%
JO. INVS. & FIN. BK	1.350	1.340	-0.74%
PHILADELPHIA BK	0.530	0.520	-1.89%
BANKS INDEX	278.270		point = -1.48%
SERVICES			
ELECTRIC POWER	1.730	1.660	-4.05%
IRIBID ELECTRICITY	1.800	1.790	-0.56%
JO. INTL. TRADING CENT	0.270	0.260	-3.70%
AL-RAY	5.690	5.600	-1.58%
AL-ZARQA FOR EDU	0.910	0.900	-1.10%
ARAB INTL. FOR INVS. &	1.950	1.920	-1.54%
UNIFIED LAND TRANS	1.170	1.120	-4.27%
SERVICES INDEX	110.300		point = -1.42%
INDUSTRY			
CEMENT	3.790	3.600	-5.01%
PHOSPHATE	2.160	2.080	-3.70%
ARAB POTASH	3.980	3.780	-5.03%
PETROLEUM REFINERY	11.000	10.590	-3.73%
THE IND. COMML. & AGRI	1.090	1.050	-3.67%
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL	3.120	2.960	-5.13%
CERAMIC IND	1.210	1.170	-3.31%
TOBACCO & CIGARET	1.240	1.200	-3.23%
JO. PIPES	1.090	1.060	-2.76%
DAR AL DAWA	5.500	5.230	-4.91%
MIDDLE EAST COMPLEX	0.560	0.550	-1.79%
JO. STEEL	0.960	0.920	-4.17%
CHLORINE	1.250	1.280	0.00%
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	0.410	0.390	-4.88%
PETRO - CHEMICAL	0.330	0.320	-3.03%
CHEMICAL & VEGETABL	1.040	1.000	-3.85%
ROCKWOOL	0.300	0.290	-3.33%
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL	1.050	1.000	-4.76%
NTL CABLE	0.640	0.620	-3.13%
SULPHO - CHEMICALS	0.390	0.370	-5.13%
ARAB CENTER FOR PHAR	1.300	1.280	-1.54%
EL-ZAY	1.290	1.250	-3.10%
UNIVERSAL MODERN IND	0.720	0.680	-5.56%
IND. RESOURCES	0.460	0.440	-4.35%
NEW CAPLES	0.630	0.600	-4.76%
NTL ALUMINIUM	0.710	0.700	-1.41%
INDUSTRY INDEX	90.230		point = -4.50%
PARALLEL			
EXPORT BK (75	0.890	0.900	+1.23%
ARAB GERMAN INS	1.000	1.000	0.00%
UNION INVS. CORP	0.820	0.850	+3.66%
AL - EKBAL	0.820	0.800	-2.44%
ADVANCED PHAR	0.650	0.630	-3.08%
MEDICAL APPLIANCES	0.400	0.400	0.00%
AL DAWLAH	0.600	0.580	-3.33%
ARAB INVESTORS	0.900	0.900	0.00%
ARAB INTL. TRADE	0.210	0.210	0.00%
MACHINERY EQUIP	0.470	0.450	-4.26%
OPTICAL & AUDIAL	0.430	0.410	-4.65%
CENTURY	1.260	1.200	-4.76%
NAMCO	0.280	0.240	-14.29%
MIDDLE EAST PHAR 90	0.640	0.630	-1.56%
UNION TOBACCO	3.340	3.350	+0.30%
AL-RAZI	0.560	0.560	0.00%
INTL CERAMIC	0.410	0.400	-2.44%
GRAND INDEX	175.54		point = -2.27%

Money flows to emerging markets set to fall further in 1999 — IIF

LONDON (AFP) — The caution resulting from crushing losses in Asia and Russia will continue to sap the flow of private money into emerging markets in 1999, a coalition of leading world bankers said Wednesday.

Net private capital flows to emerging markets are expected to fall to \$140 billion (130 billion euros), lower than the total for the 1998 crisis year of \$150 billion and well below the \$260 billion seen in 1997, the Institute of International Finance (IIF) said.

However, flows to the economy of the troubled Asian region were expected to double this year to a modest \$33 billion, as outflows from the crisis countries of Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, Thailand and the Philippines slow.

The IIF predicted that those countries would see a rise in foreign investment in stock markets to \$18.7 billion from \$8.5 billion last

year. "The unilateral Russian default and devaluation in August had a sharply negative impact on confidence and flows across the markets, coming as it did against the background of the crisis in Asia," the IIF said.

"Although the effect has moderated, many investors and lenders remain wary about new commitments to emerging markets," it added. Foreign banks lost a total of \$60 billion in emerging markets last year, according to the IIF.

The grouping of private banks warned that emerging markets faced a severe credit crunch, as private bank lending was expected to fall to just \$5 billion this year from \$200 billion in 1996.

However, direct foreign investment in emerging market countries was expected to remain firm at \$104 billion, Managing director of IIF, William Dallara, told journalists that stricter borrowing and lending regimes

around the world in the wake of the successive economic crises seen last year meant that markets and national economies were now protected from flagrant contagion from Brazil.

Emerging markets "are better prepared to withstand the winds of contagion than they were," Dallara said.

IIF and HSBC bank chairman, John Bond, said of the banks, including his own, that had lost so heavily to emerging markets last year: "Most of those have already revised their practices quite rigorously."

Despite the lessons learned in Asia, Brazil and Latin America were heading for a bleak year, the IIF warned.

Growth in Latin America would stagnate this year, and fall by 3.5 per cent in Brazil. Meanwhile, private capital flows were seen falling by half to \$54 billion in 1999.

In its report on the financial crises of emerging countries, the IIF advocates "new approaches for more direct

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Kafelnikov optimistic of second grand slam win

MELBOURNE (R) — Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov was brimming with confidence about his chance of winning his second grand slam title after beating Todd Martin 6-2 7-6 6-2 to reach the Australian Open semifinals on Wednesday.

Tenth-seeded Kafelnikov was the only seeded player to reach the last four after early round defeats and injury had robbed the tournament of most of its star players by the fourth round.

"There could not be a better opportunity for me to win another grand slam," said Kafelnikov, winner of the 1996 French Open. "I am also the only player to win a slam before, so maybe the experience is going to help me," he said.

Kafelnikov said the decision by world number one Pete Sampras not to come to Australia because of fatigue also became more significant the longer the tournament went on. "Once the best player in the world was not competing, it really opened up the field for everybody," World No. 10 Kafelnikov said.

The tall Russian will meet Tommy Haas in a semifinal on Friday. Haas earlier downed American giant-killer Vincent Spadea 7-6 7-5 6-3 to record his best grand slam performance.

"It will be interesting against Haas, but I wouldn't want to say I'm going to win definitely," Kafelnikov said.

The other semifinal, a day earlier on Thursday, will see two unseeded players meet when in-form Swede Thomas Enqvist takes on unsung Ecuadorian Nicolas Lapentti.

Haas managed to make it through his half of the draw without meeting a seeded player, with fourth seed Carlos Moya beaten in the first round and top seed Marcelo Rios retiring with a back injury without hitting a



Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia watches his backhand return head back over the net to Todd Martin of the USA during their quarterfinals match at the 1999 Australian Open in Melbourne on Wednesday. Kafelnikov won the first set 6-2 and action continues on centre court (AFP photo)

ball. Spadea then disposed of the remaining big threat in that half of the draw when he upset fifth seed and strong favourite Andre Agassi in the fourth round.

Kafelnikov was hoping to reverse a trend that has seen him beaten by the eventual champion each of the previous three times he has played in Melbourne — Pete Sampras in 1994, Agassi in 1995 and Boris Becker in 1996.

Kafelnikov's win also snapped a 14-match winning streak for Martin which stretched back to the Stockholm Open in November.

Martin entered the tournament buoyed by winning a warm-up

event in Sydney and then survived two tough five-setters in Melbourne, including one over 1998 champion Petr Korda in the third round.

"I'm in need of a little rest," Martin said. "The last couple of weeks have been busy, but it's been a lot of fun."

Martin wilted against Kafelnikov, who mixed a cunning blend of cross-court shots, lobs and a strong service game.

The American, who is close to re-entering the top 10, said the amount of tennis he had played had resulted in him irritating an old stomach muscle injury.

"Had I played to my potential today, I think I could have won."

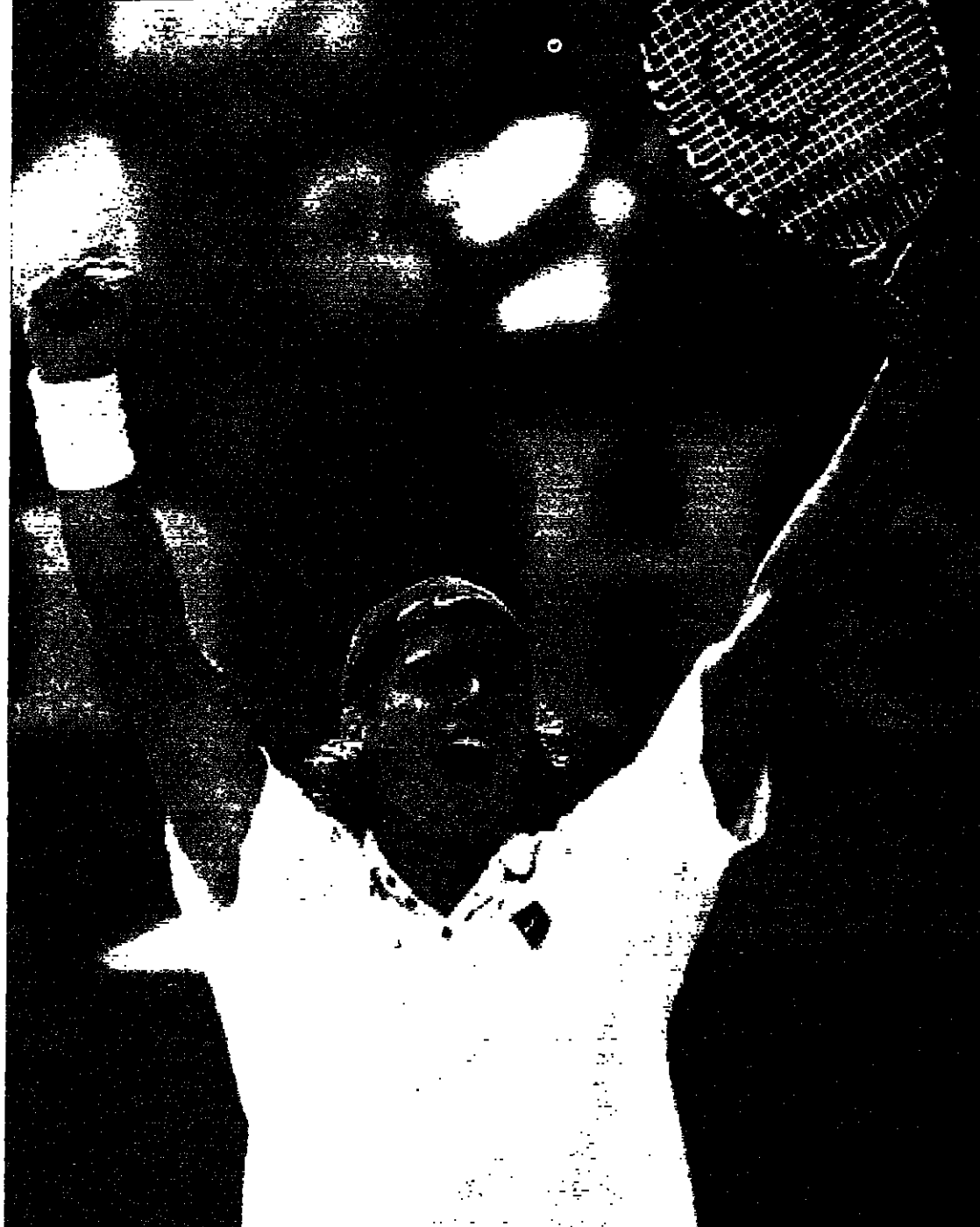
the world number 13 said, adding he believed he had been playing the best tennis of his nine-year career recently.

Martin mounted his most serious challenge in the second set when he managed to hold his serve and force a tie-break.

However he lost the first three points on a succession of groundstroke errors for the Russian to take the tie-break 7-1.

In the final set, Kafelnikov started with a service break in the first game before breaking again in the seventh with a searing cross-court forehand.

Kafelnikov then calmly served out the match to end a one-sided 107-minute tie.



Tommy Haas of Germany jubilates after defeating Vincent Spadea of the U.S. in the quarterfinals of the 1999 Australian Open in Melbourne on Wednesday. Haas advanced to the semifinals with a 7-6 (5), 7-5, 6-3 win (AFP photo)

Seles puts Graf era into history books

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Monica Seles kept her remarkable unbeaten Australian Open record intact as she swept into the semifinals here Wednesday and then confined Steffi Graf to the history books.

Seles won nine of the last 10 games to knock out Graf and now plays defending champion Martina Hingis in Thursday's semifinals.

Hingis outplayed French seventh seed Mary Pierce, 6-3, 6-4.

Tommy Haas, attempting to become the first unseeded player to win a Grand Slam tournament since Boris Becker's 1985 Wimbledon triumph, disposed of American Vince Spadea in straight sets.

The 20-year-old German now plays Yevgeny Kafelnikov for a place in Sunday's final.

The Russian 10th seed and 1996 French Open champion blasted his way past American 15th seed Todd Martin 6-2, 7-6 (7/1), 6-2.

The 24-year-old Russian said he would never have a better chance to win another Grand Slam.

"It is difficult to realise that none of the seeded players are left in the tournament and I am the only one to have won a Grand Slam, so that will help me definitely," said Kafelnikov.

"Three times here before I have been beaten by the eventual champion, Pete Sampras in 1994, Andre Agassi in '95 and Boris Becker in '96."

The 29-year-old Graf, winner of 21 Grand Slam singles titles, began like an express train but was quickly derailed.

From serving for the first set at 5-4 she crashed out 5-7, 1-6. Only her pride stood in the way of only a third love-set in the last 15 years.

And afterwards Seles was damning in her assessment.



Monica Seles of the U.S. returns to Steffi Graf of Germany during their quarterfinals match at the 1999 Australian Open in Melbourne on Wednesday. Seles defeated Graf 7-5, 6-1 (AFP photo)

"Steffi's not the best player in the world now," she said when asked if she ranked the match alongside their previous Grand Slam epics.

"I can't think of having had

such a lapse," said her fellow former world No.1 and four-time Open winner, who dropped eight games in succession.

"I just got tired and I couldn't

really serve anymore," Graf added. "I thought so much about it in the second set that I couldn't put a ball in."

"I got tired and nervous but I didn't know why I couldn't

change it around. I told myself to loosen up. I usually can but today I didn't find a way to."

"At 5-4 I was dictating the points and I thought I was playing fine," said the 10th seeded Graf, whose sliced backhand was destroyed by Seles.

"I didn't really go into this tournament for some reason with enough confidence. I don't know why that was."

Graf still holds a 9-5 lead over Seles in head-to-head meetings and the previous time they met — at the Chase Championships in New York last November — Graf fought back from a first set loss to win 1-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Wednesday's win was Seles' first over Graf since she beat her in the 1993 Australian Open final.

Seles won on her debut here in 1991 then won the title in 1992 and 1993 before missing the 1994 and 1995 championships while she was recovering after being stabbed by a Graf fan in a tournament in Hamburg.

Hingis, who has beaten her in six of their eight matches, including two of three at Grand Slam level, said after beating Mary Pierce she was eager to have a crack at Seles, who extended her unbeaten record in Australia to 33 matches.

Hingis, the No. 2 seed, took just 76 minutes to beat Pierce, the 1995 champion who went down to her third successive defeat to Hingis at Melbourne Park.

Hingis and Pierce have now won five matches each but but Pierce's first three wins came when the Swiss was only 14-year-old.

"I was attacking her serve very well and had some great returns on the line," Hingis said.

"She was standing so far off



Steffi Graf of Germany returns to Monica Seles of the U.S. during their quarterfinals match at the 1999 Australian Open in Melbourne on Wednesday. Seles defeated Graf 7-5, 6-1 (AFP photo)

the middle I had open lines and I went for them."

Pierce said she decided to stand wide on the court to try to create a sharper angle for her shots.

She said unforced errors — 26 to Hingis' 17 — were the main reason for her loss, but she was also troubled by a pulled stomach muscle and a head cold.

"To beat her you have to be at the top of your game 100 per cent, which I wasn't," Pierce said. "But I've got to give Martina credit. She hit some amazing shots."

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CAST FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1999

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You're a warrior, of course, but every once in a while you get warm, snuggly feelings. That'll be happening more often while the moon's going through Cancer, the water sign that squares Aries. Water signs are emotional, and you may be surprised to find you have an emotional side. And guess what? You may even like it.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You're starting into a pensive phase today, that will last into the weekend. The moon's transit through Cancer times Jupiter in Pisces and Mars in Scorpio. This grand trine in water signs could inspire you to rekindle a bond with some special friends. They're the ones you can talk to without saying words at all. Touch bases tonight.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You've been interested in ideas lately, but now you should get interested in practical matters. It's great to do something you love, but it's even better if you're getting paid for it. Once you get a job like that, work becomes play, and that possibility is out there now. In fact, it's closer than you think.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 22) You're very lucky today. You're serene, calm, gorgeous and inspirational — everything you always hoped you'd be. If any other thoughts try to get into your head, just shoo them away. Don't allow them to spoil the pretty picture you're creating for yourself. Its your life, and today you can make it be just as lovely as you want.

LEO: (July 23 to August 23) You could wake up today with a sense of foreboding, as if there's something you promised to do that you've forgotten all about. Actually, odds are high that's actually the case. So today, search your brain and your notepad and the little scraps of paper you've been carrying around in your pocket. Find all the promises you've made, and keep them.

VIRGO: (August 24 to September 23) You could have a brilliant insight today, almost as if it was handed to you from on high. If so, it's because you've made yourself available for incoming messages by listening more than you speak. And today, a co-worker will be particularly verbose. Listen, but you may choose to follow your own good sense instead.

LIBRA: (September 24 to October 23) You could make a brilliant career move today. The opportunity could come quickly, and you won't have long to act, so pay attention. There's no shortage of money, but the trick is getting it into your pocket. All you have to do is provide what's needed. The hard part is figuring out what that is, and having it there on time. Follow a hunch.

SCORPIO: (October 24 to November 21) Conditions have shifted; they're now in your favour. A lucky break is predicted, so be watching for it. Love is abundant, and growing. Yourself-confidence should be, too. You may not be in control of the situation, but that's OK. You might even choose to give up control, just for the fun of it. If you do, you'll access real power.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You may be something of a gambler, but today you'd be wise to squelch that urge. Let the house take in somebody else's loose change. Speaking of houses, you may find a good deal in real estate or get something beautiful for your home. No gamble here. It's simply a good, solid deal. If you find something like that, go for it.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Venus is going into Pisces today, in your solar third house of education, making you even smarter than usual. Venus symbolises good luck, and so does Jupiter, which is also in Pisces. So your luck should be stupendous. In this case, it has to do with education. Therefore, you should definitely sign up for a class.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) Whatever shenanigans you've been up to for the last few days apparently have not hurt your productivity, because it looks like you're being considered for a promotion or a raise. Or could it be you're in love with the person who dispenses the money? Hmm... At any rate, you're lucky, so be bold. Ask for what you want.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) Things have shifted again, and this time you're downright lucky. There's a grand trine in water signs, which makes you even luckier yet. Your intuition is good, and your attitude should be improving. But instead of racing into action, you may choose to sit and wait. Watch, listen and let someone else stick his or her neck out first.

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Company	Open	Close	Change
BANKS			
ARAB BK	215.000	213.000	-0.93%
INTL BK	1.520	1.510	-0.66%
CB OF JO	1.250	1.190	-4.80%
INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK	1.630	1.510	-1.31%
THE POLISH BK	2.840	2.700	-4.93%
JO. KUWAIT BK	1.590	1.550	-2.52%
JO. ISLAMIC BK	1.730	1.680	-2.89%
JO. INVS. & F.N. BK	1.350	1.340	-0.74%
PHILADELPHIA BK	0.630	0.520	-1.89%
BANKS INDEX	278.270		point = -1.48%
SERVICES			
ELECTRIC POWER	1.730	1.660	-4.05%
IRBID ELECTRICITY	1.800	1.790	-0.56%
JO. INTL TRADING CENT	0.270	0.260	-3.70%
AL-RAT	5.690	5.600	-1.58%
AL-ZARQA FOR EDU	0.910	0.900	-1.10%
ARAB INTL FOR INVS. & UNIFIED LAND TRANS	1.950	1.920	-1.54%
UNIFIED LAND TRANS	1.170	1.120	-4.27%
SERVICES INDEX	110.300		point = -1.42%
INDUSTRY			
CEMENT	3.790	3.690	-5.01%
PHOSPHATE	2.160	2.050	-5.09%
ARAB POTASH	3.880	3.780	-5.03%
PETROLEUM REFINERY	11.000	10.890	-3.73%
THE IND. COMM. & AGRIC	1.090	1.080	-3.67%
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL	3.120	2.960	-5.13%
CERAMIC IND	1.210	1.170	-3.31%
TOBACCO & CIGARET	1.240	1.200	-3.23%
JO. PIPES	1.280	1.260	-2.75%
DAR AL DAWA	0.500	0.490	-2.00%
MIDEL EAST COMPLEX	0.560	0.550	-1.79%
JO. STEEL	0.950	0.920	-3.16%
CHLORINE	1.250	1.250	0.00%
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	0.410	0.390	-4.88%
PETRO. CHEMICAL	0.330	0.320	-3.03%
CHEMICAL & VEGETABL	1.040	1.000	-3.85%
ROCKWOOL	0.300	0.290	-3.33%
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL	1.050	1.000	-4.76%
NTL. CABLE	0.640	0.620	-3.13%
SULPHO. CHEMICALS	0.390	0.370	-5.13%
ARAB CENTER FOR PHAR	1.300	1.250	-3.85%
TEL. ZAY	1.290	1.250	-3.10%
UNIVERSAL MODERN IND	0.720	0.680	-5.56%
IND. RESOURCES	0.460	0.440	-4.35%
NEW CAPLES	0.630	0.600	-4.76%
NTL. ALUMINIUM	0.710	0.700	-1.41%
INDUSTRY INDEX	90.230		point = -4.50%
PARALLEL			
EXPORT BK (75	0.930	0.900	-3.23%
ARAB GERMAN INS	1.000	1.000	0.00%
UNION INVS. CORP	0.820	0.830	+1.22%
AL - EKBAL	0.820	0.800	-2.44%
ADVANCED PHAR	0.660	0.630	-4.55%
MEDICAL APPLIANCES	0.400	0.400	0.00%
AL DAWLAH	0.500	0.580	+16.00%
ARAB INVESTORES	0.900	0.900	0.00%
ARAB INTL TRADE	0.210	0.210	0.00%
MACHINERY EQUIP	0.470	0.450	-4.26%
OPTICAL & AUDIAL	0.430	0.410	-4.65%
CENTURY	1.260	1.200	-4.76%
NAMICO	0.250	0.240	-4.00%
MIDDEL EAST PHAR. 90	0.640	0.630	-1.56%
UNION TOBACCO	3.340	3.350	+0.30%
AL-RAZI	0.560	0.560	0.00%
INTL CERAMIC	0.410	0.400	-2.44%
GRAND INDEX	175.54		point = -2.27%

Money flows to emerging markets set to fall further in 1999 — IIF

LONDON (AFP) — The caution resulting from crushing losses in Asia and Russia will continue to sap the flow of private money into emerging markets in 1999, a coalition of leading world bankers said Wednesday.

Net private capital flows to emerging markets are expected to fall to \$140 billion (120 billion euros), lower than the total for the 1998 crisis year of \$150 billion and well below the \$200 billion seen in 1997, the Institute of International Finance (IIF) said.

However, flows to the economy of the troubled Asian region were expected to double this year to a modest \$33 billion, as outflows from the crisis countries of Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, Thailand and the Philippines slow.

The IIF predicted that those countries would see a rise in foreign investment in stock markets to \$18.7 billion from \$8.5 billion last

year. "The unilateral Russian default and devaluation in August had a sharply negative impact on confidence and flows across the markets, coming as it did against the background of the crisis in Asia," the IIF said.

"Although the effect has moderated, many investors and lenders remain wary about new commitments to emerging markets," it added. Foreign banks lost a total of \$60 billion in emerging markets last year, according to the IIF.

The grouping of private banks warned that emerging markets faced a severe credit crunch, as private bank lending was expected to fall to just \$5 billion this year from \$200 billion in 1996.

However, direct foreign investment in emerging market countries was expected to remain firm at \$104 billion. Managing director of IIF, William Dallara, told journalists that stricter borrowing and lending regime-

around the world in the wake of the successive economic crises seen last year meant that markets and national economies were now protected from rampant contagion from Brazil.

Emerging markets "are better prepared to withstand the winds of contagion than they were," Dallara said.

IIF and HSBC bank chairman John Bond, said of the banks, including his own, that had lost so heavily to emerging markets last year: "Most of those have already revised their practices quite rigorously."

Despite the lessons learned in Asia, Brazil and Latin America were heading for a bleak year, the IIF warned.

Growth in Latin America would stagnate this year, and fall by 3.5 per cent in Brazil. Meanwhile, private capital flows were seen falling by half to \$54 billion in 1999.

In its report on the financial crises of emerging countries, the IIF advocates "new approaches for more direct

and comprehensive contacts and consultation between the governments of major emerging market economies and their private sector creditors and investors."

"A much closer dialogue could enhance considerably the stability of the international financial system and avoid rude surprises," said IIF deputy managing director William Cline.

Cline said Mexico had successfully led the way in 1996 after the peso crisis. "Emerging markets have to know and understand who are their creditors, and vice-versa," said IIF Managing Director Charles Dallara.

"In the case of Korea, with more familiarity, the depth of the crisis would have been minimized," Dallara added.

Participants in the regular meetings proposed by the report would include representatives of banks, investment funds, pension funds on the one hand, and central bank authorities of the donor country on the other.

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FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1999

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) There's a grand trine in water signs. The water sign side of yourself might even come out. Water signs are the emotional ones. They also have intuition.

Can you see how it might be to the advantage of a warrior to have extrasensory perception? Watch and listen today, and you may be able to tune into a whole new channel.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) There's someone in your life you respect quite a bit. He or she is analytical and scientific, and comes up with more data than you can ever hope to remember. Today, this person has all the facts, but might be missing the point. That's what you have to offer, if you can find a way to communicate it effectively. Try repetition.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This looks like a good day to put a down payment on a cruise, or that scuba class in Tahiti. Put your money where your mouth is, and where your mind has been for some time. You don't have to worry about losing your luggage if you do time. You're traveling from your armchair, but what's the point? That'll never be satisfying. Take the plunge.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 22) This would be an excellent day to fall in love. You generally like to be pursued, but today you might make an exception to that rule. You might see somebody so deliciously inviting that you can't help but ask for a date. Plan it for tonight, and it could last all the way through tomorrow morning.

LEO: (July 23 to August 23) You could come upon a bit of information today that should best be kept secret. You may not know which bit it is right now, so just keep it all to yourself. Wait and see which facts are true, and which one is just hearsay. Today it's rather hard to tell, but later it'll be crystal clear.

VIRGO: (August 24 to September 23) You're supposed to be going to work, but a friend is urging you to take the day off. What a dilemma. A person with fewer scruples would probably play hooky; but, an enlightened soul that you are, you recognise the enormous benefits of keeping your commitments. You'll do your job perfectly, then run off and get crazy!

LIBRA: (September 24 to October 23) There's more work than you

can handle, so you might not think about asking for more. Think again. You're a master at work flow procedures. It's a natural Libra talent. You can spot problem areas and design a way around them. And if you come up with an easier way to do your job, you'll be worth more money. More can be better.

SCORPIO: (October 24 to November 21) Acknowledgement is a powerful gift. It benefits both receiver and giver. Today, it's your most effective tool. By acknowledging a person who's faithful and true, you'll be bringing out the best in yourself. You could also produce a kind of nuclear reaction. The love you give comes back, but exponentially bigger.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There are so many things you're interested in learning right now, it's hard to say no. Don't overdo it. You can only read so many books at one time; you know. Besides, the libraries are full of them. Think of ways to economise before you put yourself in the poorhouse trying to learn how to get rich.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Romance, or at least good friendship, looks quite likely now, with a neighbour or a friend of a sibling. Open yourself up to the possibility. If you have a true love, the two of you ought to go hang out with other people you both love. Love is obviously the dominant theme here. It'll be hard to avoid it, so why even try?

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) A co-worker says one thing and does another. What's going on? That's the question. The answer, again, is to follow the money. You may be tired of hearing about money by now. You're more interested in loftier pursuits. But it does help to keep body and soul together, and it's no sin to live well. Today, take care of yourself.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) You're drawing attention from a very attractive person. You're warm, compassionate, sensitive, thoughtful and generous, and so is the person eyeing you. Is this a match made in heaven? Only time will tell. The only adverse condition is a conflict between love and money. Don't trade one for the other by growling off and getting fired.

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